Vol. 33

THIS ISLAND RESEMBLES A SMALL BOAT FLOATING IN THE SEA...

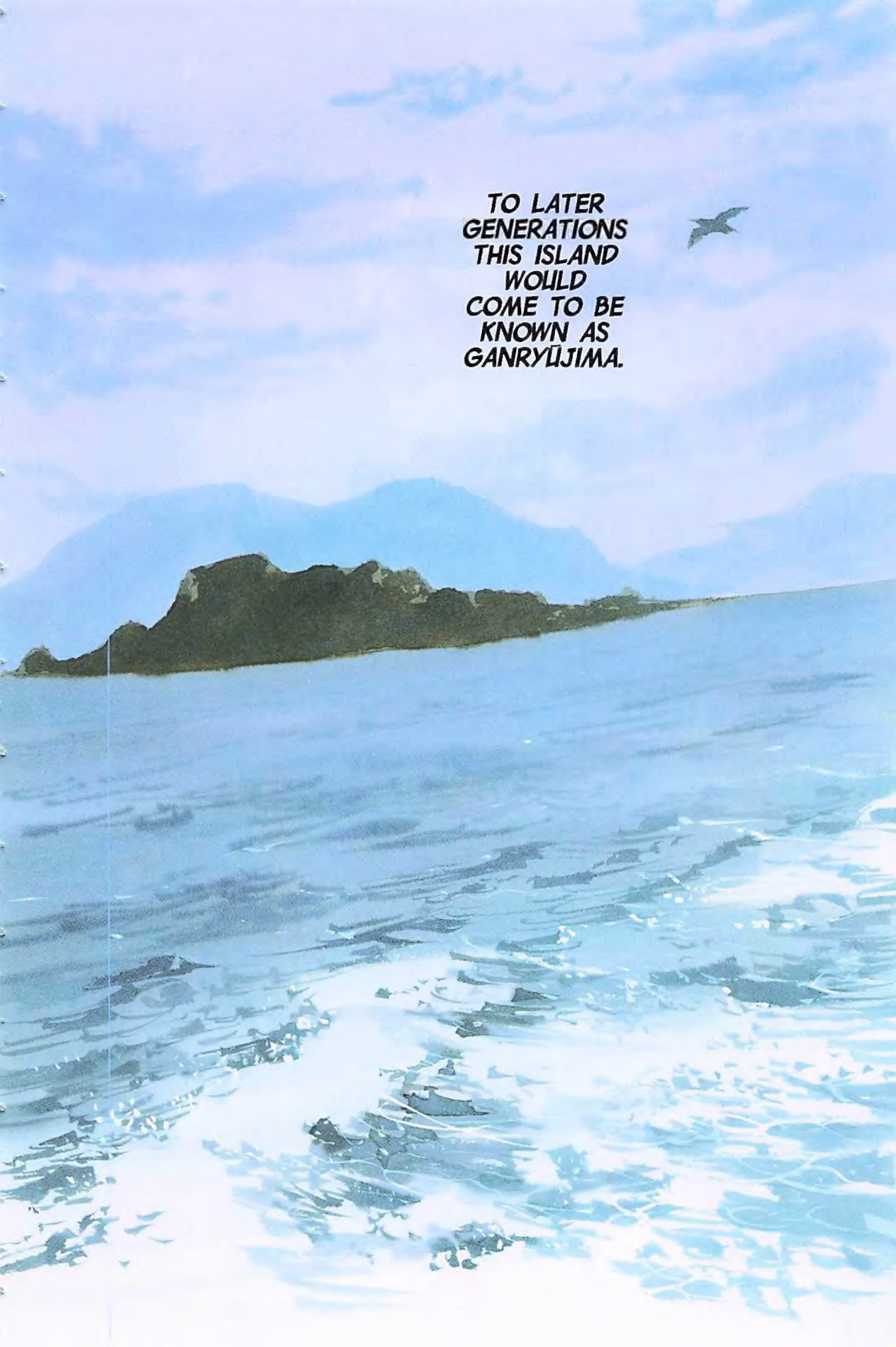
THAT'S WHY IT WAS CALLED FUNAJIMA OR BOAT ISLAND.

...ATTRACTS LITTLE ATTENTION FROM ANYBODY.

THIS UNINHABITED ISLAND...

BUT ONLY FOR THE MOMENT...

#288 | Kokura

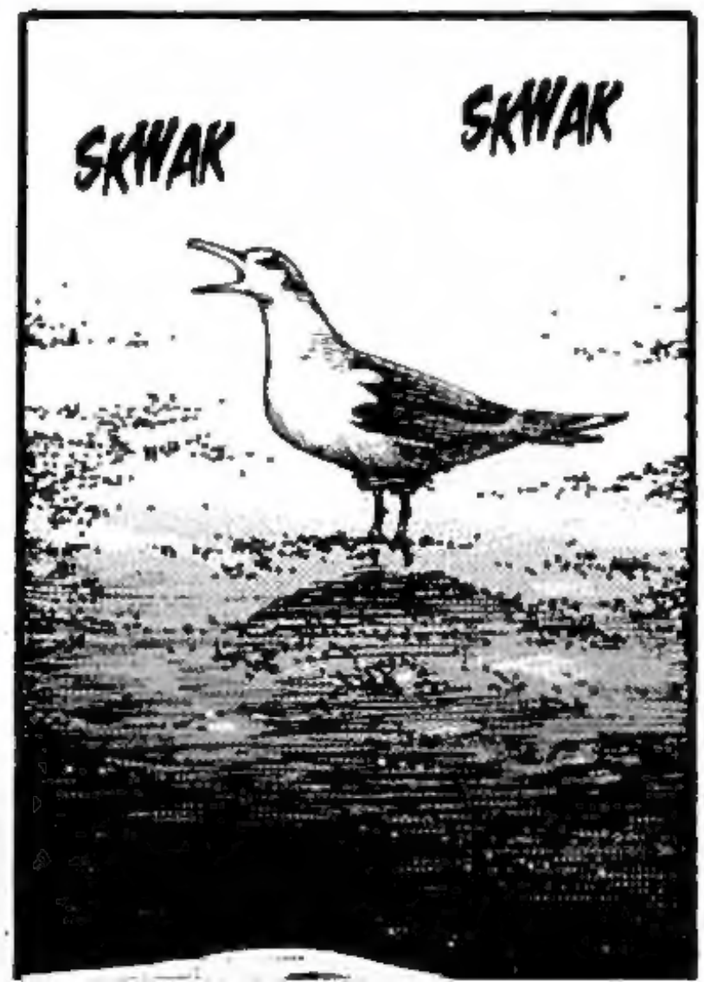

TO LATER GENERATIONS THIS ISLAND WOULD COME TO BE KNOWN AS GANRYŪJIMA.

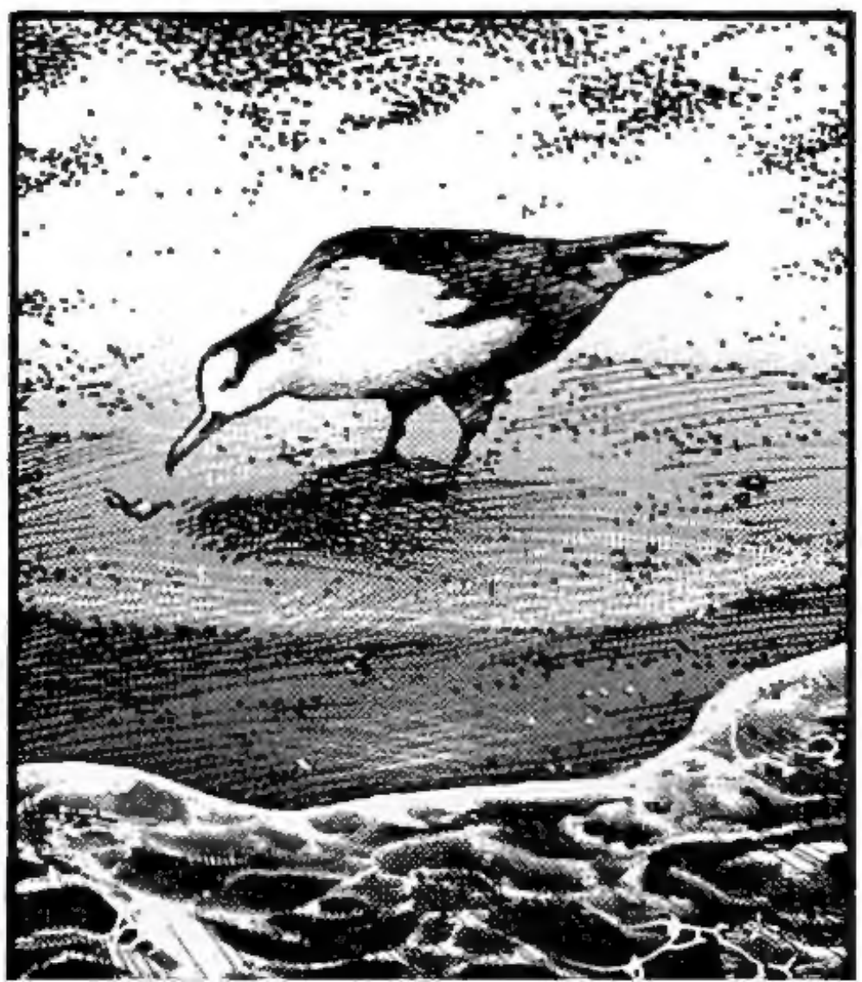
FUNAJIMA IN THE KOKURA DOMAIN WAS STILL COMPLETELY UNKNOWN.

BUT IN THE 10TH YEAR OF THE KEICHŌ ERA (1605)...

FSSHH

FSSHH



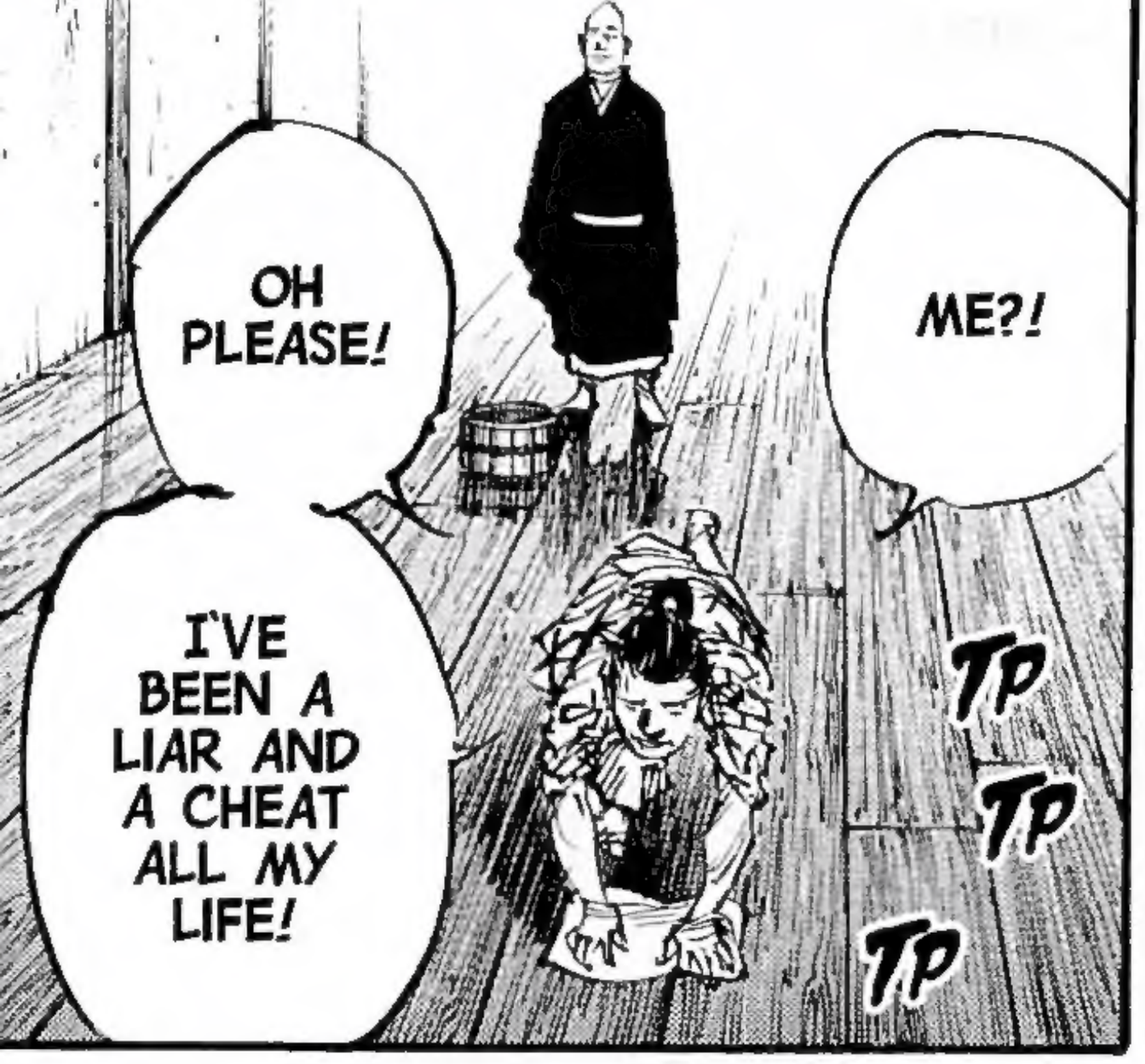


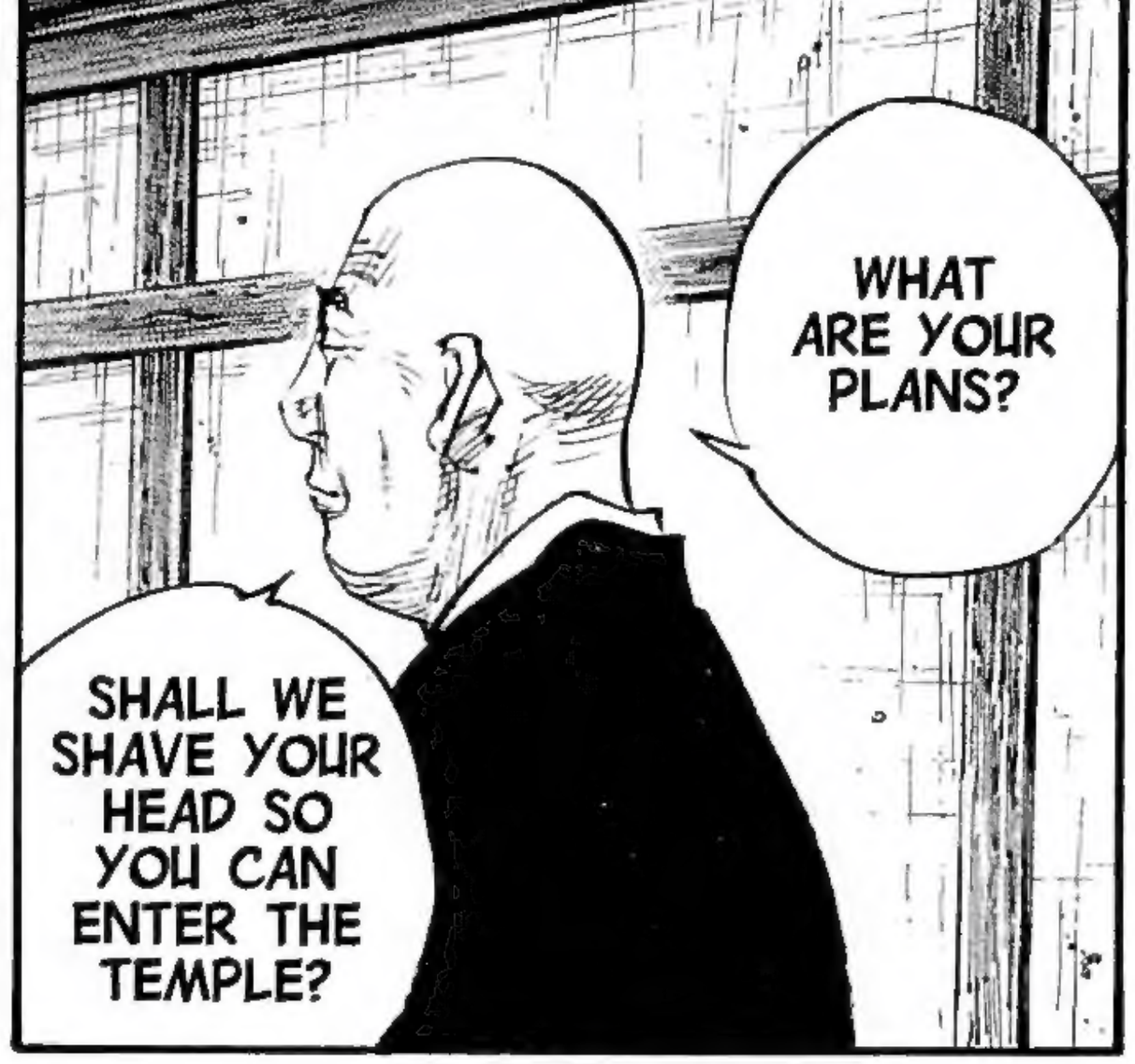
MATA-HACHI ...
I APPRECIATE ALL YOU'RE DOING.

I SEE.

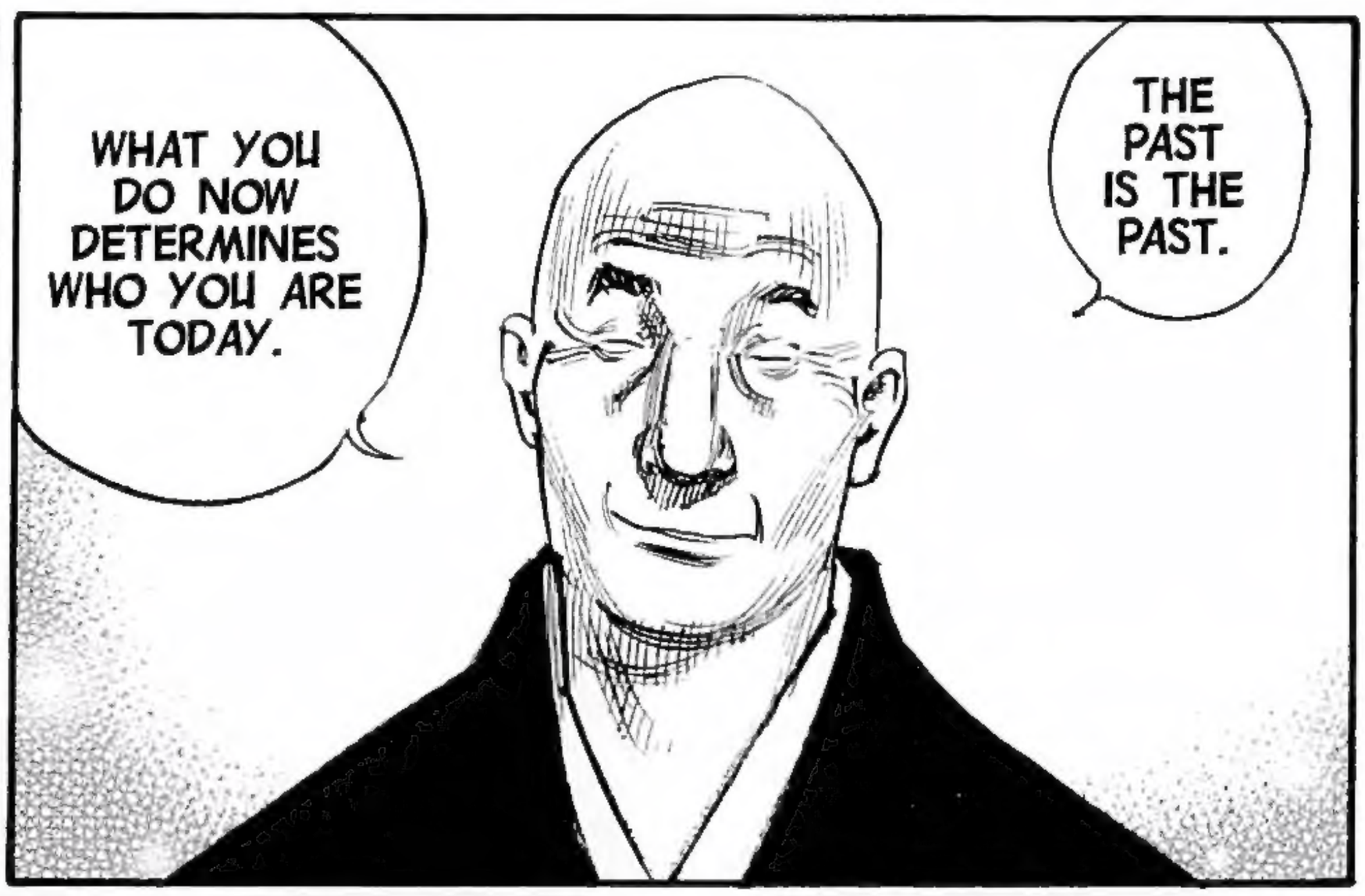
WORKING PROVIDES SOME DISTRACTION FROM MY SADNESS...

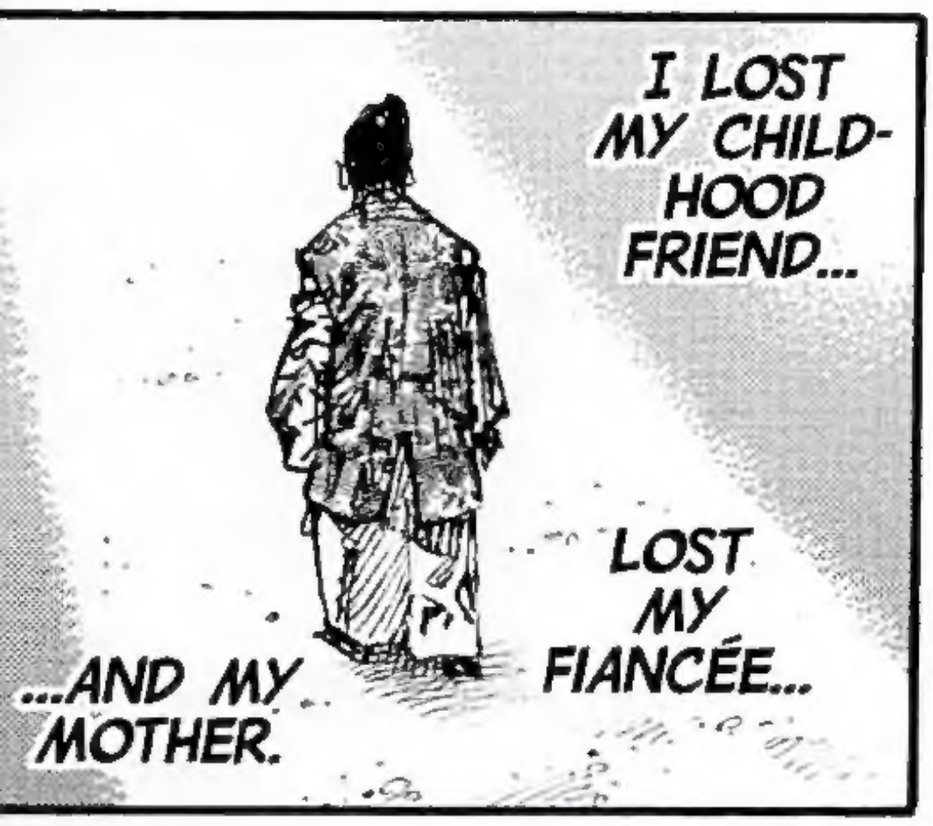
IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO AFTER ALL YOU DID FOR MY MOTHER AND ME.
OH NO...
BESIDES ...

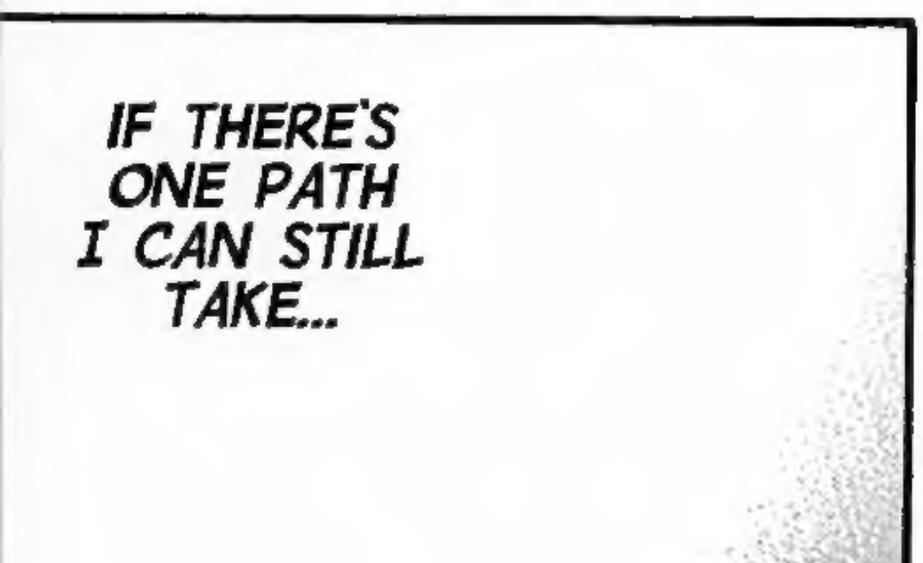

OH PLEASE!
I'VE BEEN A LIAR AND A CHEAT ALL MY LIFE!
ME?!
TP
TP
TP

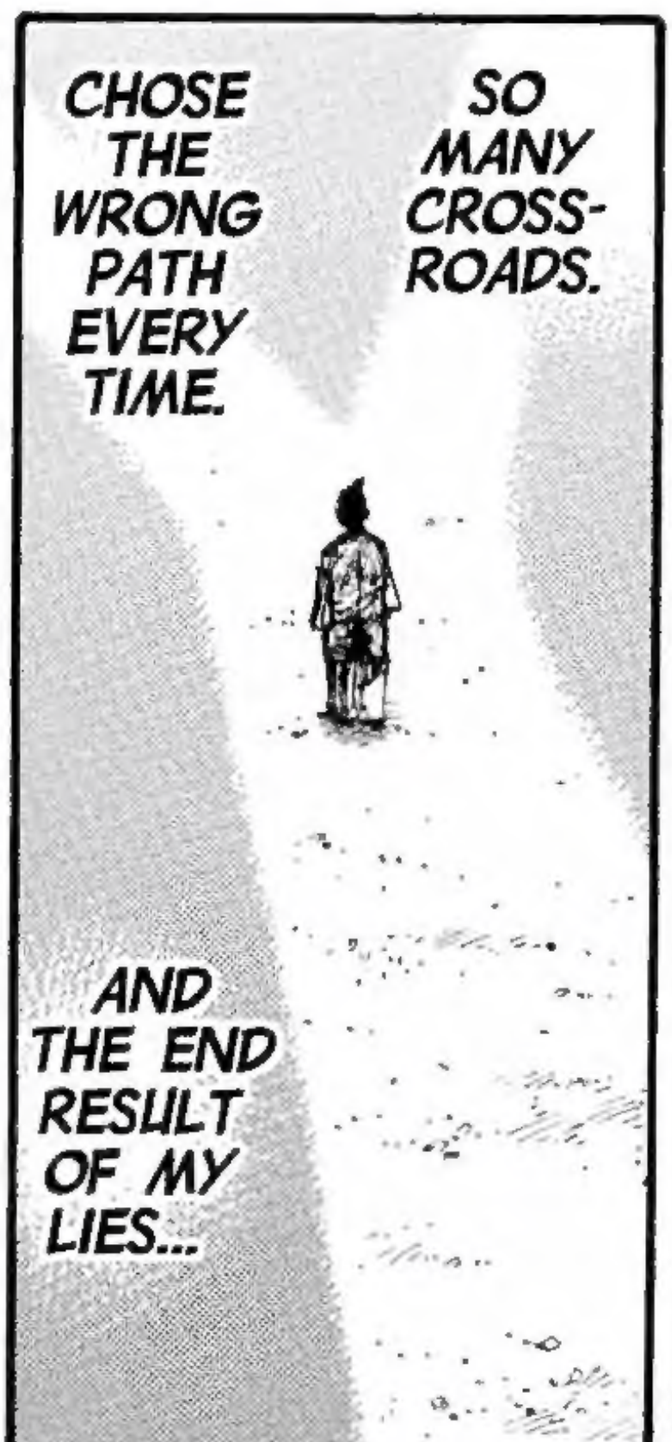

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?
SHALL WE SHAVE YOUR HEAD SO YOU CAN ENTER THE TEMPLE?

...

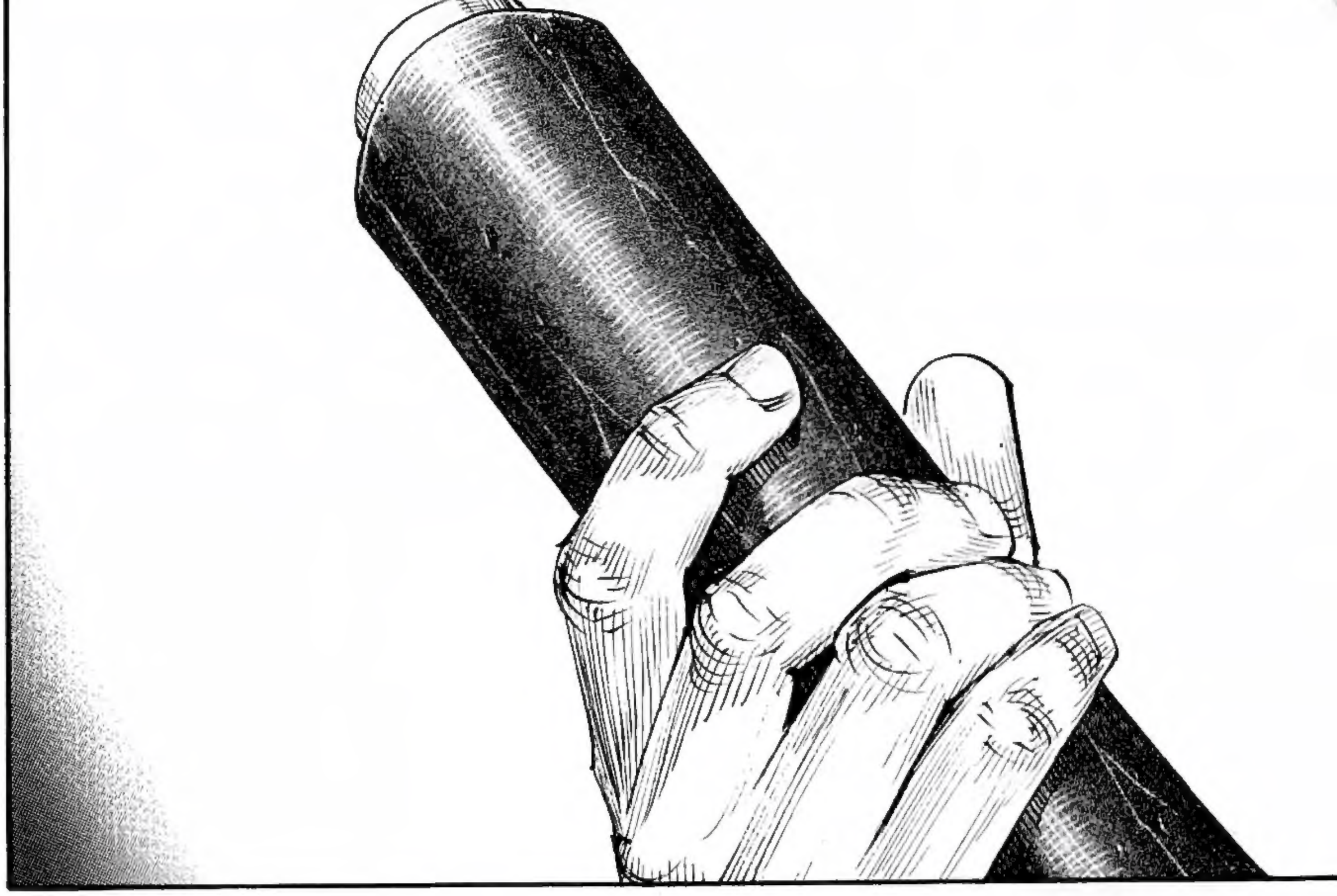

WHAT YOU DO NOW DETERMINES WHO YOU ARE TODAY.
THE PAST IS THE PAST.


I LOST MY CHILD-HOOD FRIEND...
LOST MY FIANCÉE...
...AND MY MOTHER.


IF THERE'S ONE PATH I CAN STILL TAKE...


CHOSE THE WRONG PATH EVERY TIME.
SO MANY CROSS-ROADS.
AND THE END RESULT OF MY LIES...

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
OF COURSE.



WHAT YOU DO NOW DETERMINES WHO YOU ARE TODAY.
佐々木小次郎殿
(SASAKI KOJIRŌ)

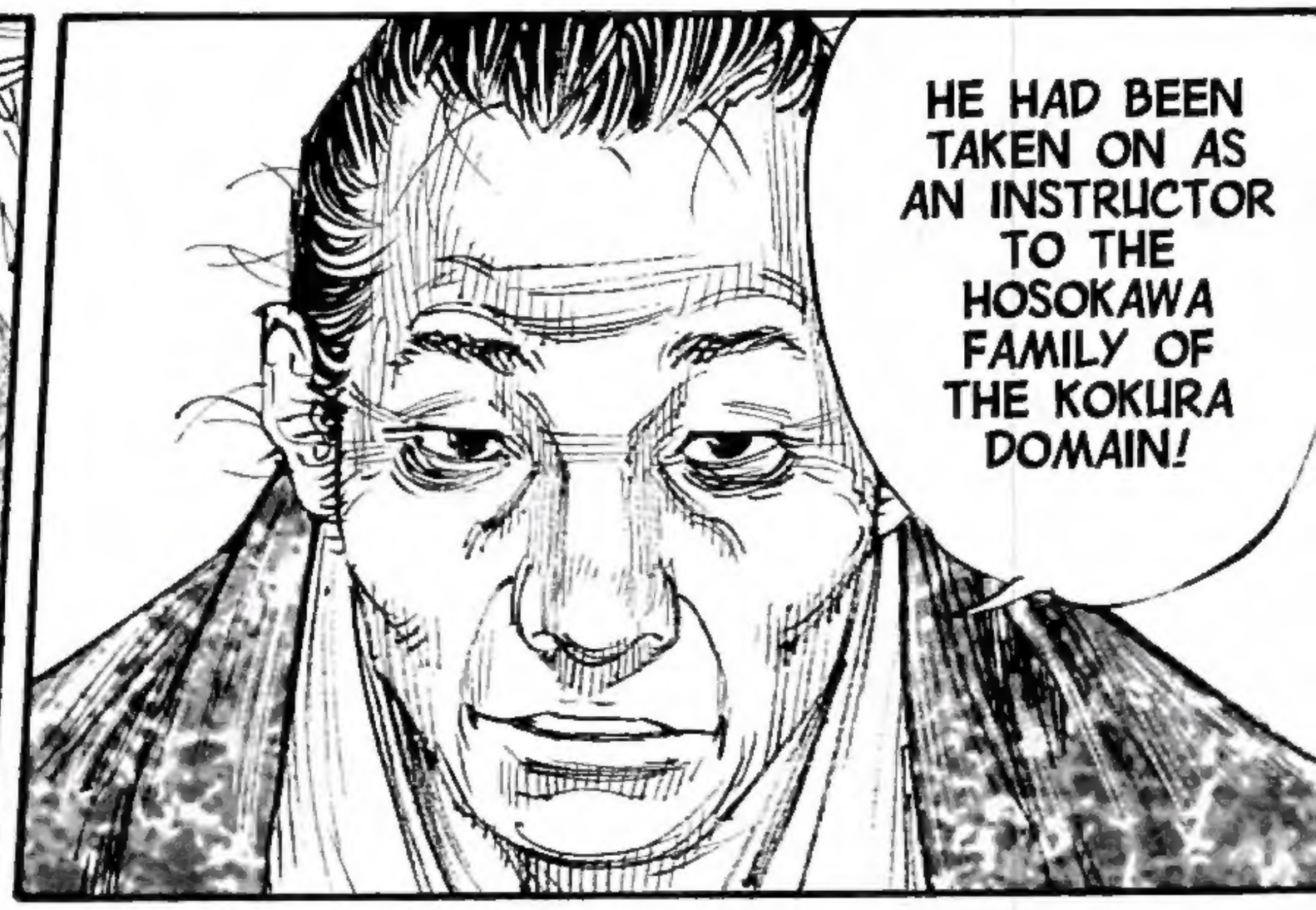
PLEASE LET IT BE TRUE.

IF ONLY...
...THAT WERE TRUE.

I SEARCHED ALL OF KYOTO...

...AND FINALLY FOUND OUT WHERE KOJIRŌ WAS!

HE WAS IN KOKURA!



WHAT YOU DO NOW DETERMINES WHO YOU ARE TODAY.
FSSSHH
FSSSHH

"HE'S GONE TO EDO."

AND WHAT ABOUT MUSASHI? WHAT WAS HE DOING AT THIS TIME?

"HE'S WORKING THE FIELDS IN SHIMOUSA."

AND IT SEEMS HIS LEG NEVER COMPLETELY HEALED.

THE ONLY THING I KNOW FOR SURE ABOUT MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND...

"HE'S HOLED UP IN A CASTLE READING BOOKS."

THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF RUMORS. WHO KNOWS WHICH WERE TRUE.

...IS THAT HE WOULD NEVER QUIT THE SWORD.

THIS I KNOW FOR SURE.

IT WAS WHEN MUSASHI WENT TO KOKURA.

WHAT I *CAN* TELL YOU OCCURRED QUITE SOME TIME AFTER THAT.

THAT'S WHERE WE'LL START.

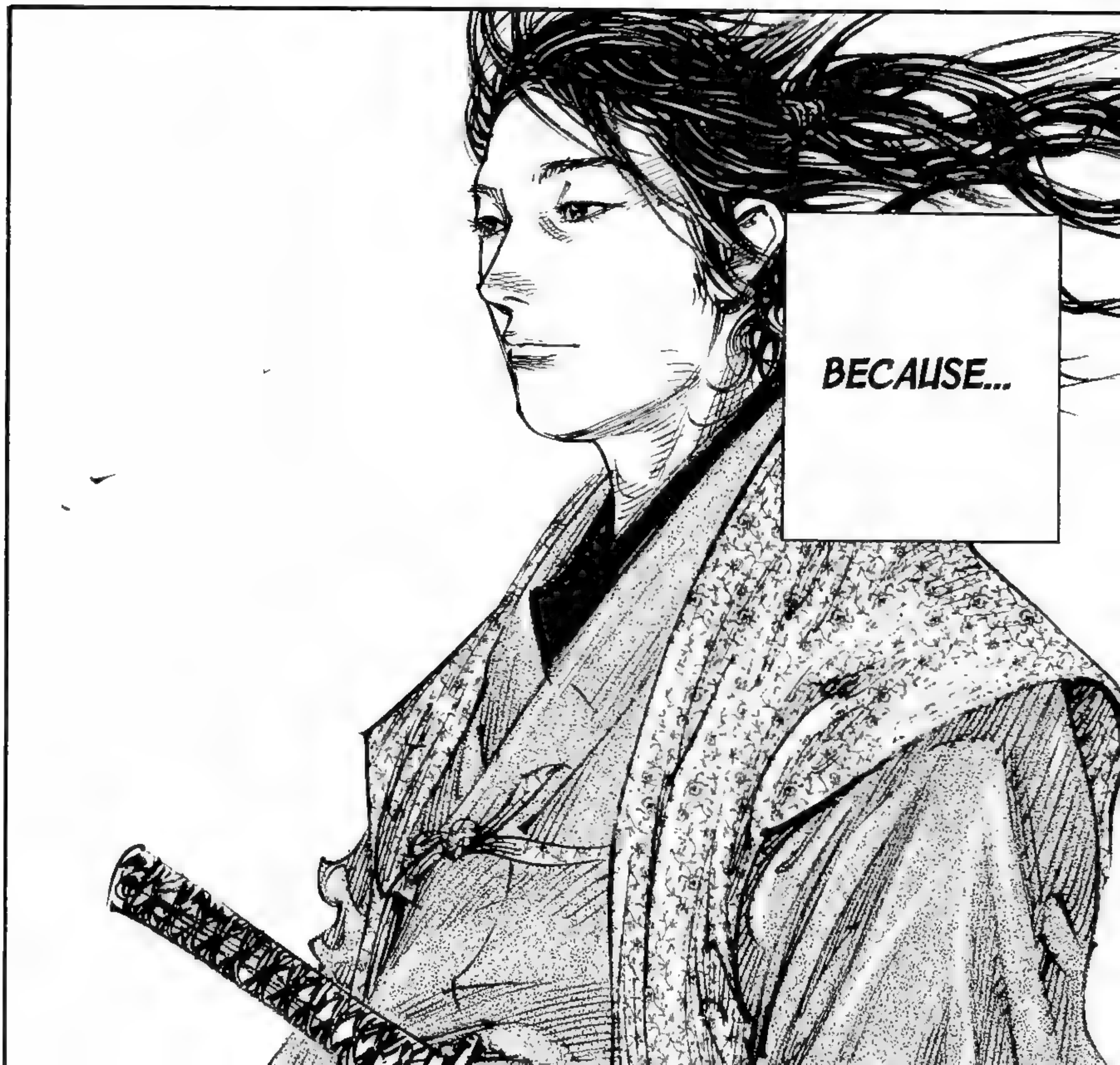
AND KOKURA WAS WHERE KOJIRŌ WAS.

...
...
JNG
JNG
...
JNG
...!!
JNG
JNG
THANK YOU...
TSK

KOKURA...
KOJIRŌ...

THE NAME SASAKI GANRYŪ SPREAD THROUGH KOKURA LIKE WILDFIRE.

THEY ALL WANTED TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HIM.
...TALKED ABOUT KOJIRŌ.
EVERYONE...
GASP


BECAUSE...

WELL...

?!

WHAT?!

...THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.

YOU CAN'T STOP THERE, MATAHACHI!

HEY!

WHAT?!

I'LL CONTINUE TOMORROW.

COMING BACK TOMOR-ROW?

OF COURSE.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

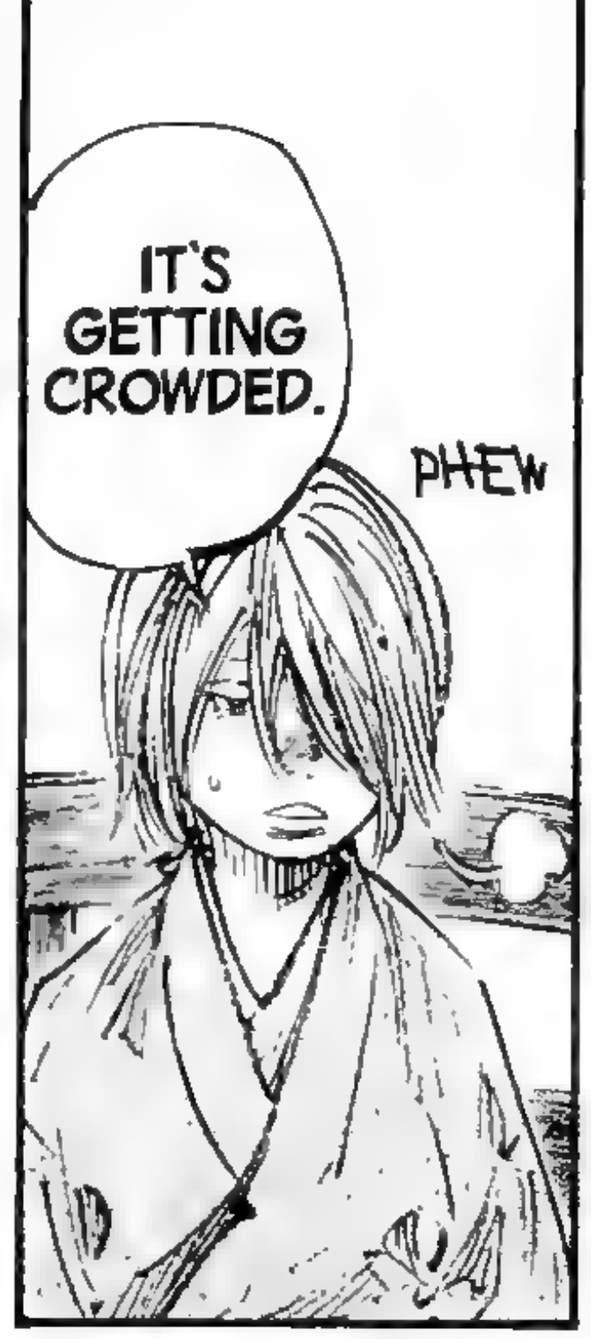
HEY!

NO!

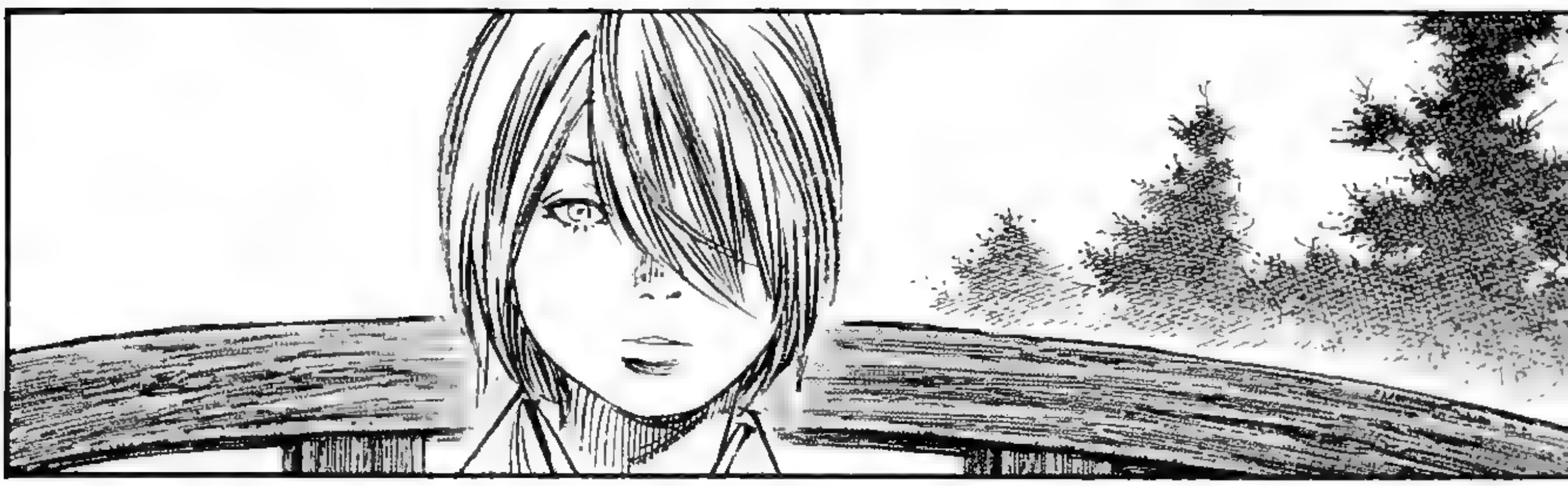
YOU'RE BLOCKING TRAFFIC.

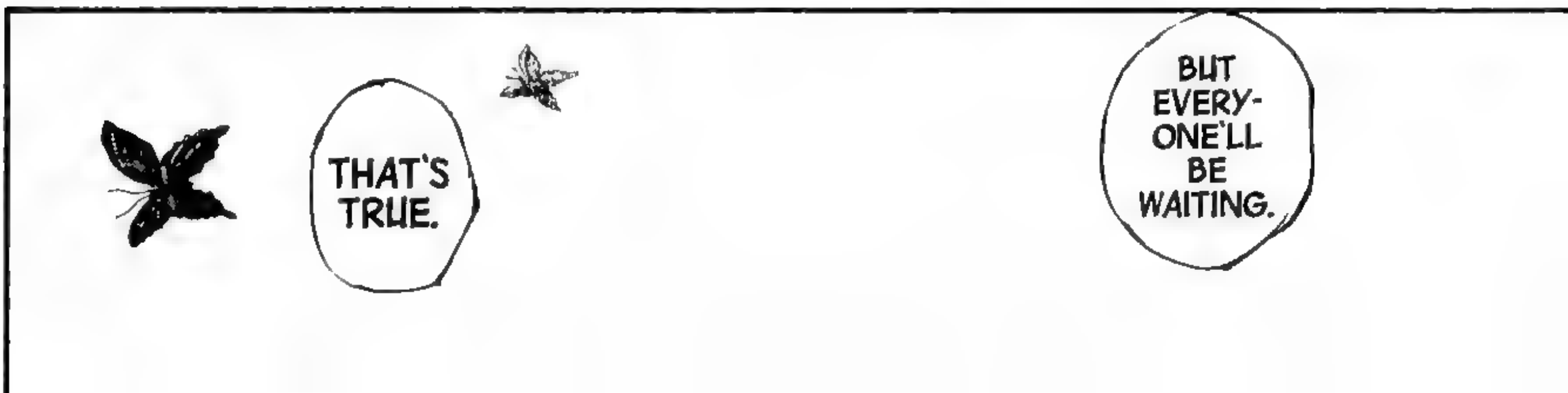
IT'S GETTING TOO CROWDED.

DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE THIS POPULAR.
MAYBE I SHOULD RUN AWAY.


IT'S GETTING CROWDED.
PHEW

...THE TALE'S NOT SO PLEASANT TO TELL.
FROM HERE ON...




THAT'S TRUE.
BUT EVERY-ONE'LL BE WAITING.

THIS TIME FOR SURE.

#289 | Inner Music

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT MUSASHI WAS DOING DURING THIS PERIOD.

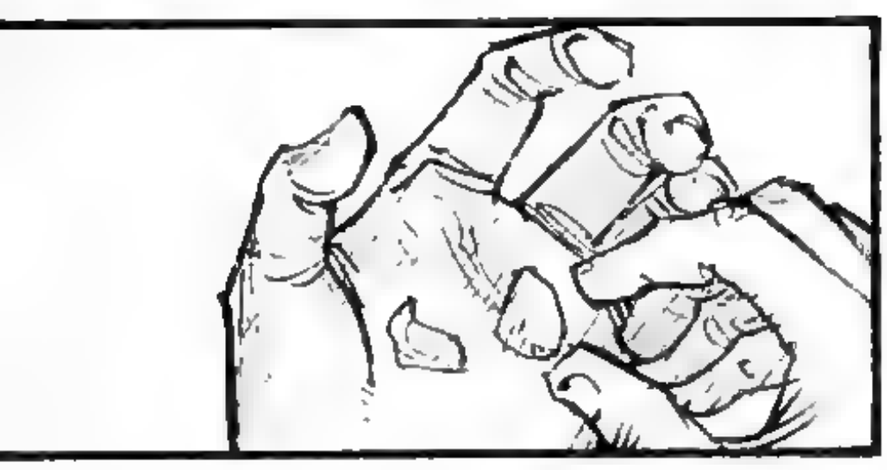
BUT NO MATTER WHERE HE WAS, I'M SURE HE NEVER LEFT THE SWORD.

SOME THINGS YOU JUST KNOW.

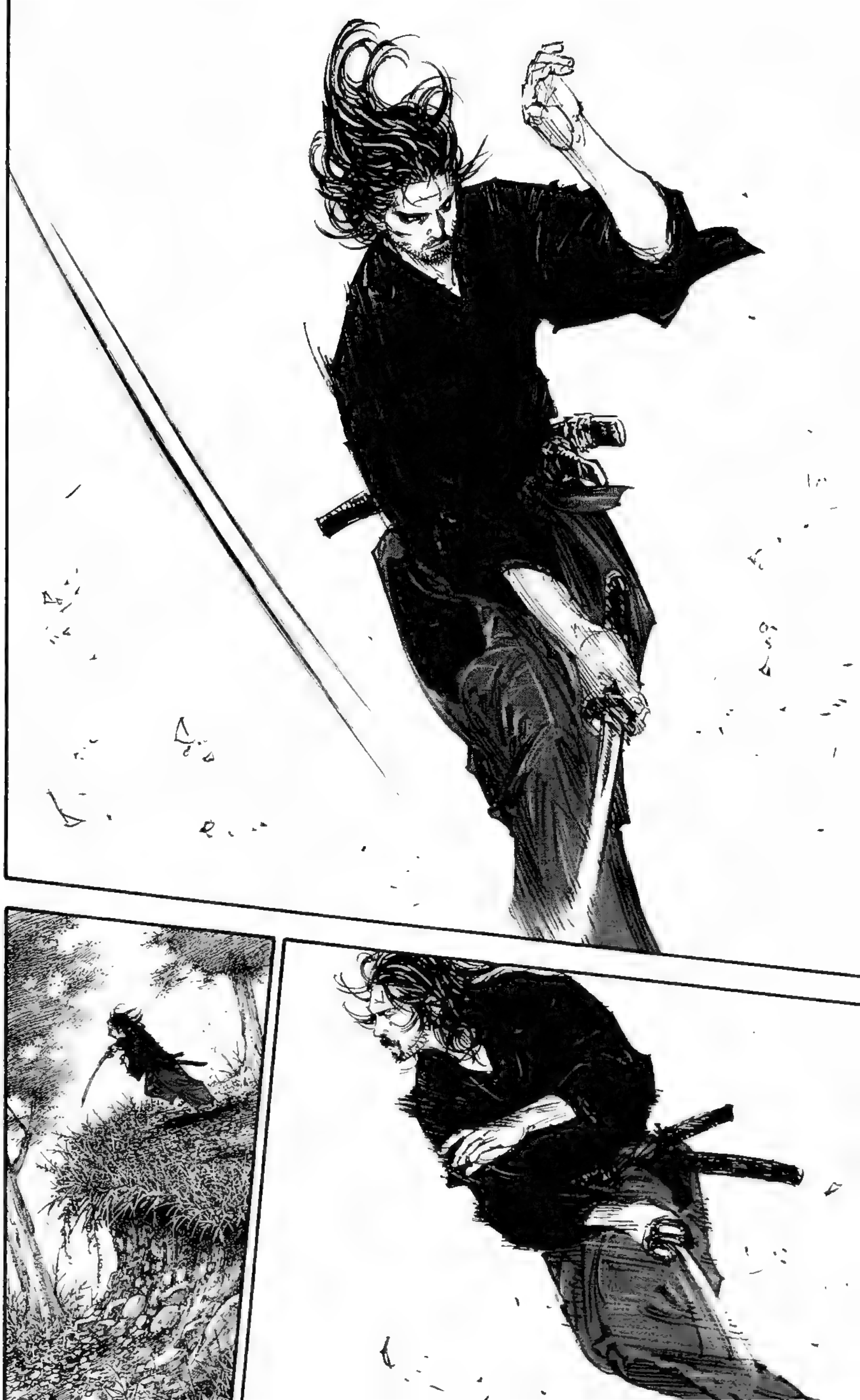
FSH

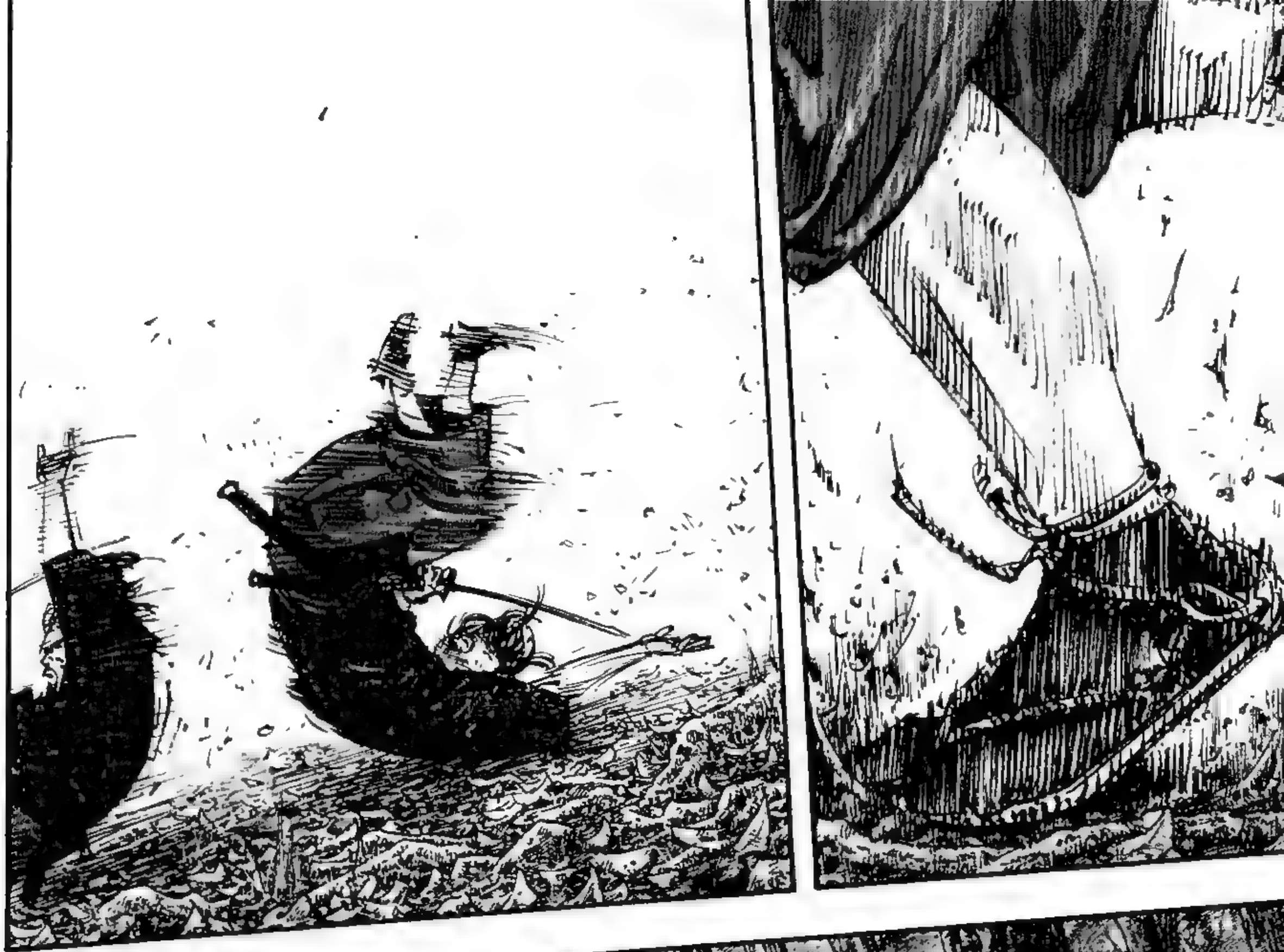
FSH

FSH



IT'S NOT COMPLETE SILENCE.





SO MUCH HAPPENING INSIDE.

BONES RUBBING AGAINST EACH OTHER.

CREAKING...

THE SOUND OF TAKING IN A BREATH...

...AND EXHALING.

ITS WEIGHT RESOUNDS...

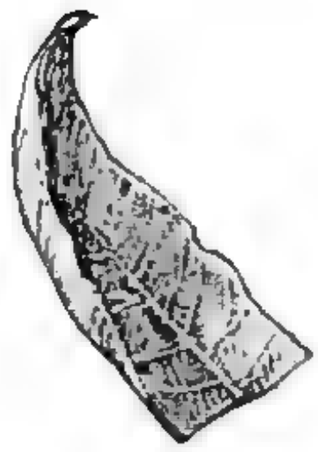
MY SWORD...

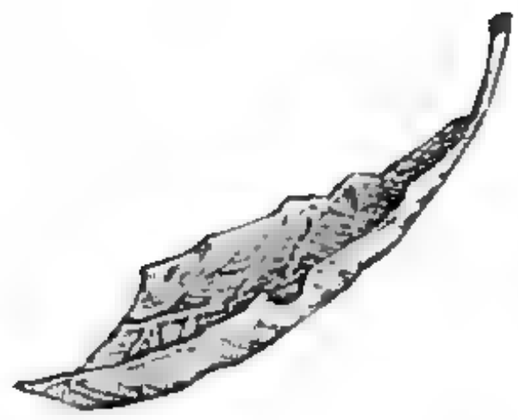
HAH.

MY SWORD...

...

...MUST BE FREE OF ITS WEIGHT.





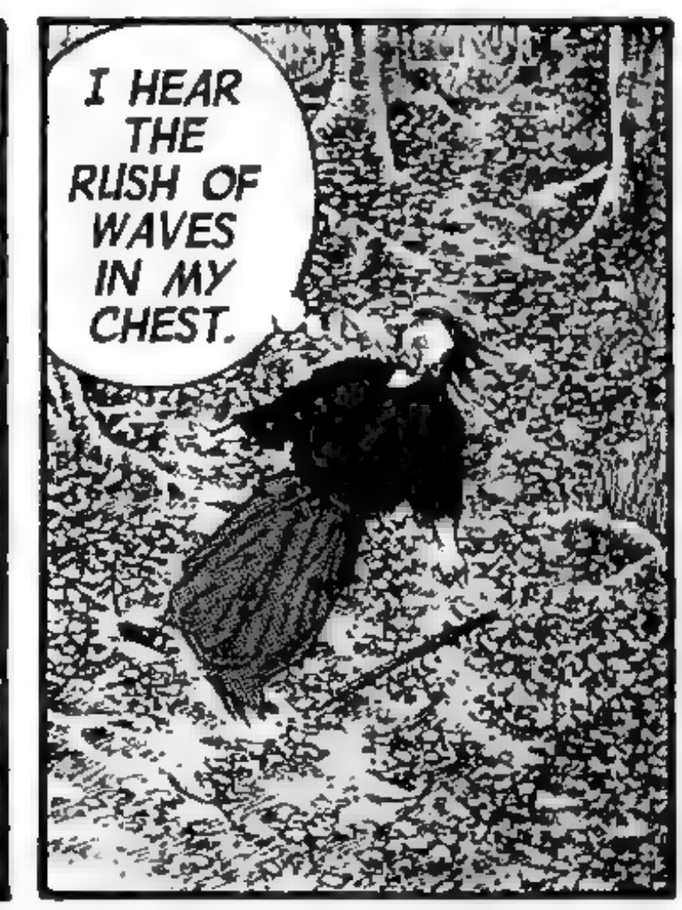
JUST LIKE THIS.

THE WEIGHT OF A DRY LEAF.

NO... STOP TRYING TO DO IT WELL.

CONTINUE UNTIL UTTERLY EXHAUSTED.

LIKE THE EMPTY HAND OF A BABY.



WHAT IS THIS FAINT SOUND?

THIS MOVING CURRENT...

WHAT IS THIS SOUND, KOJIRŌ?

I'M SURE THAT'S HOW IT IS FOR YOU.

YOU MUST BE ABLE TO HEAR IT CONSTANTLY.

NOW IT'S GONE.

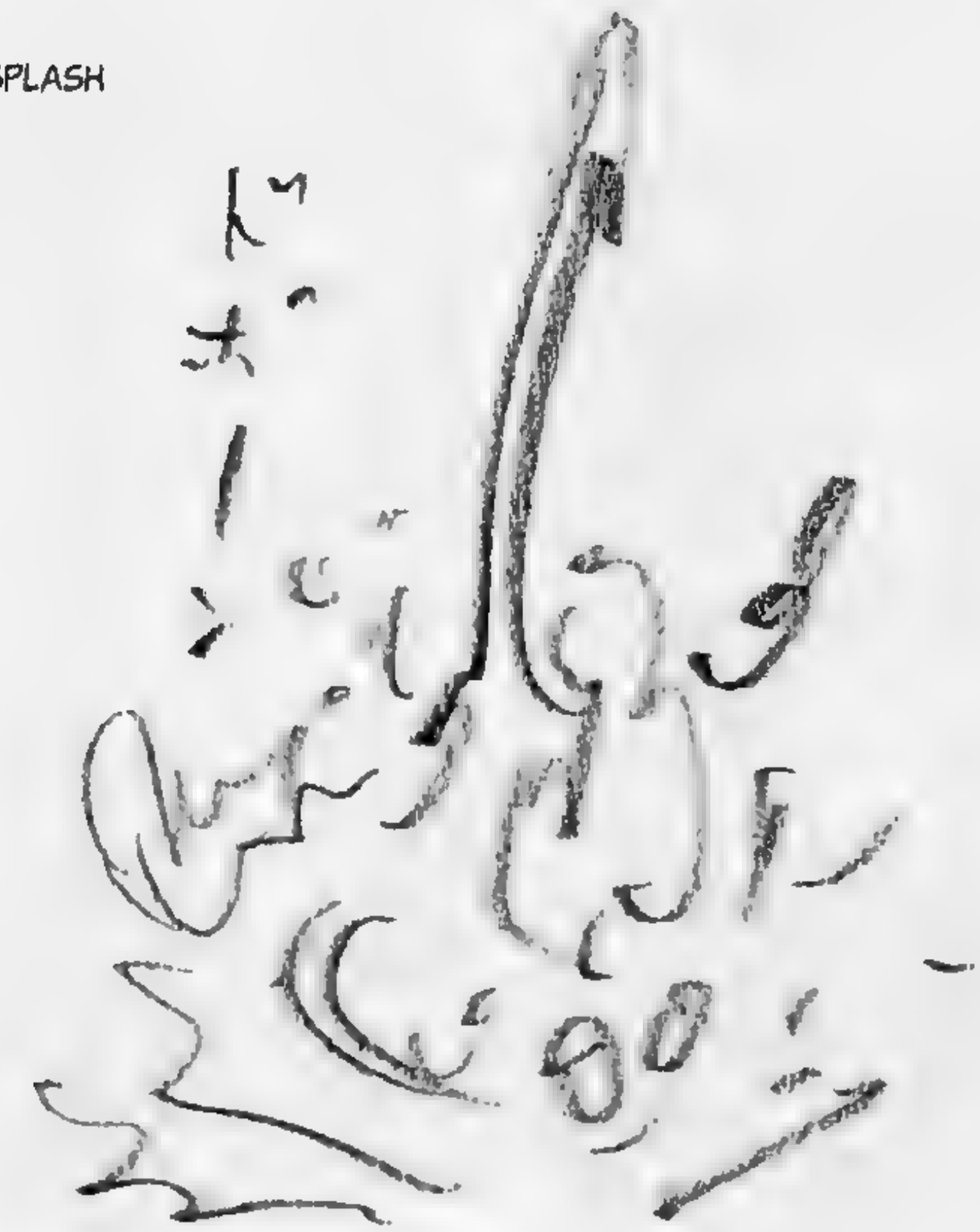
WHAT'S THIS?
CAN'T BE BOTHERED. I'LL JUST RUN AWAY.

MUSASHI!
MIYAMOTO MUSASHI!

EXCELLENT...
"THE BUZEN KOKURA CLAN HAS DECIDED TO HIRE MUSASHI AS AN INSTRUCTOR OF THE SWORD.
I JUST RECEIVED THIS LETTER FROM HOSOKAWA TADATOSHI IN EDO...
WELL, IT'S TAKEN A LONG TIME...
SO THERE WE HAVE IT.
"MY FATHER TADAOKI IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING HIM."
"WHILE HIS WHERE-ABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN...
"...I ASSURE YOU WE WILL FIND HIM AND BRING HIM TO KOKURA.

MUSASHI CAN FINALLY LIVE A LIFE AMONG MEN.

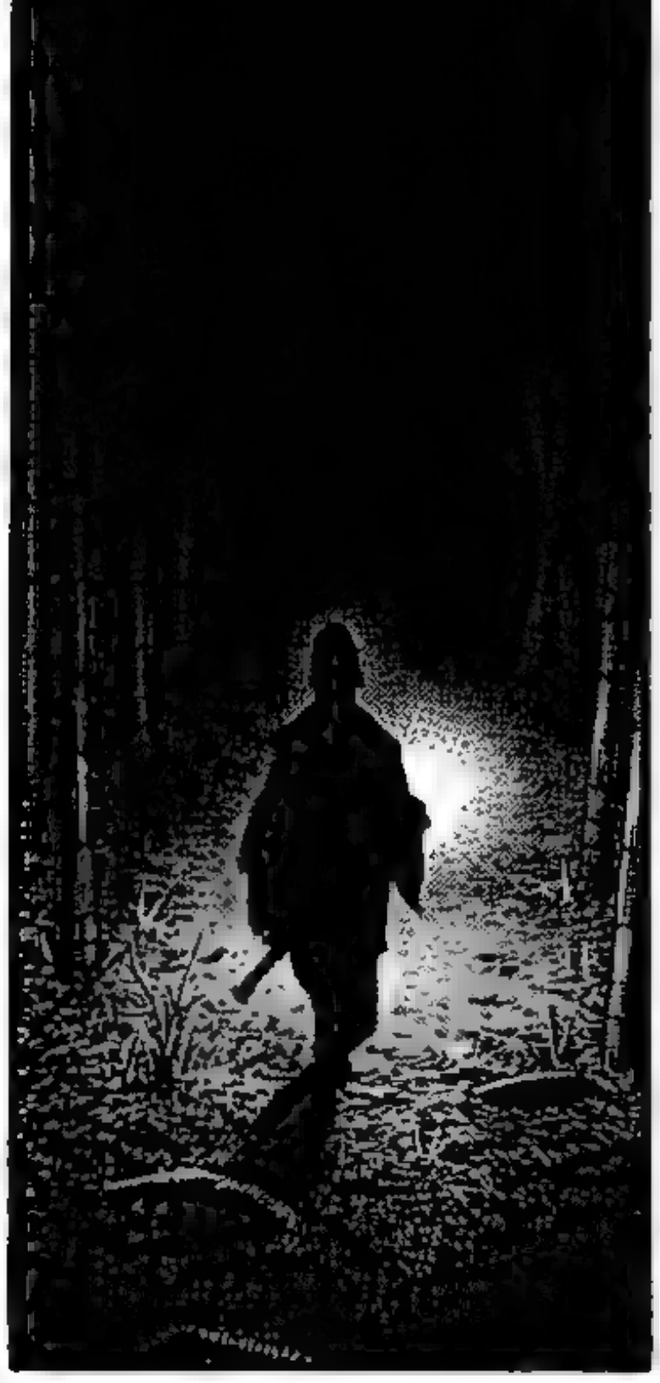
SPLASH



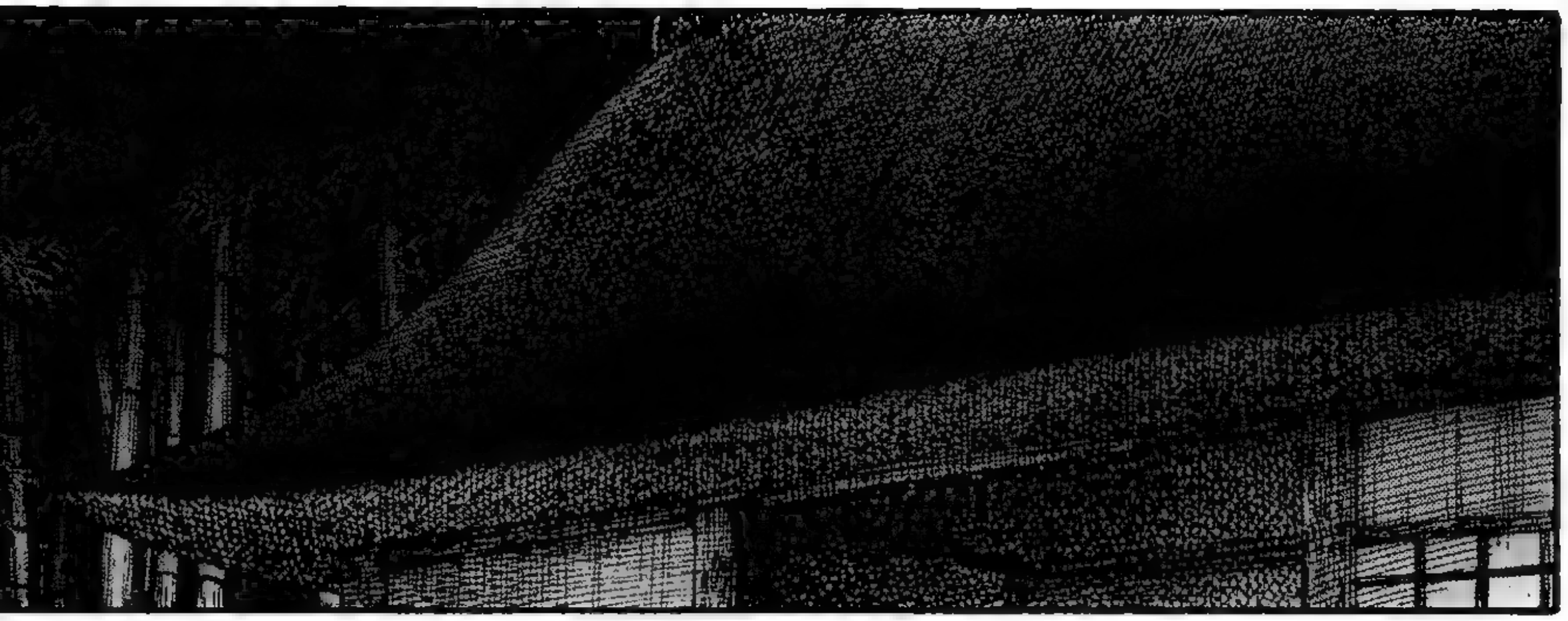
#290 | Life Among Men

THE 10TH YEAR OF THE KEICHŌ ERA (1605)

IN THIS YEAR THE POSITION OF SHOGUN WAS HANDED DOWN FROM TOKUGAWA IEYASU...



MAKE SURE NO ONE COMES.
UNDER-STOOD ?
YES, SIR.



SHOULDERS FEEL SO STIFF.

WHEW...

EVEN A RULER MUST RELAX ONCE IN A WHILE.

THIRD SON TO HOSOKAWA TADAOKI OF THE BUZEN KOKURA CLAN.

HOSOKAWA TADATOSHI...

FROM THE AGE OF FOURTEEN, HE HAS RESIDED IN EDO CASTLE SERVING AS A HOSTAGE.

MY FATHER IS STILL THE ONE IN CONTROL.

COME NOW...

NOTHING WAS FINALIZED, BUT I WANTED TO MEET HIM MYSELF.

INSTEAD, I HEAR...

...REQUESTING MIYAMOTO MUSASHI AS A SWORDSMANSHIP INSTRUCTOR FOR THE TOKUGAWA CLAN.

TADATOSHI, IT WAS I WHO WROTE THAT LETTER TO HON'AMI KŌETSU...

EVEN AMONGST THE DAIMYO WHO HAVE TRULY DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES WITH THEIR MILITARY EXPLOITS...

...HAS A STRONG DESIRE TO HIRE MUSASHI.

I KNOW TADAOKI... THAT IS, YOUR FATHER...

YOU ARE ABOUT TO BECOME...

...SUC-CESSOR TO KOKURA CASTLE.

AS HEIR TO TADAOKI'S BUZEN KOKURA DOMAIN...

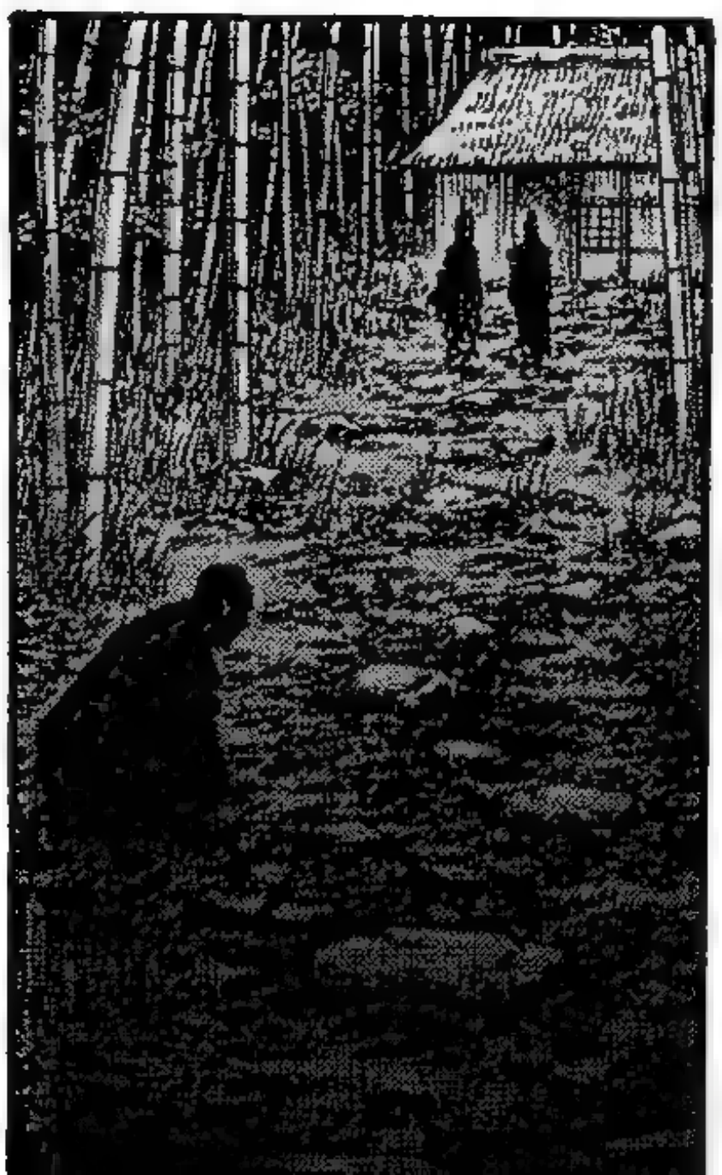
CONSIDER THIS MY GIFT TO YOU.

I'M GLAD TO HAVE HAD YOU AS A COMPANION.

...
I AM NOT WORTHY.

MUSASHI'S OF SIMILAR AGE AS WELL. HE WILL SURELY BE OF GREAT AID TO YOU.

WHAT IS IT?! SPEAK!



WERE YOU ABLE TO EXPLAIN?

HE RAN AWAY?

...HAS ABSOLVED MUSASHI OF ANY WRONGDOING.

...BUT SHOSHIDAI ITAKURA KATSUSHIGE...

HE THINKS HE'S BEING CHASED AS A FUGITIVE WHO ESCAPED FROM NIJŌ CASTLE...

YES, EXACTLY AS IF HE WERE DEAF.

...BUT HE JUST TURNED A DEAF EAR TO US.

WE TRIED, SIR...

HE IS UNAWARE OF THIS. THAT'S WHY HE'S RUNNING.

DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM ALL THAT?

THEN HE LEAPT INTO THE RIVER.

MUSASHI!

STOP, MIYAMOTO MUSASHI!

HEY!

DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!

ARE YOU SURE THAT'S HIM?!

HE MUST BE OUT OF HIS MIND!

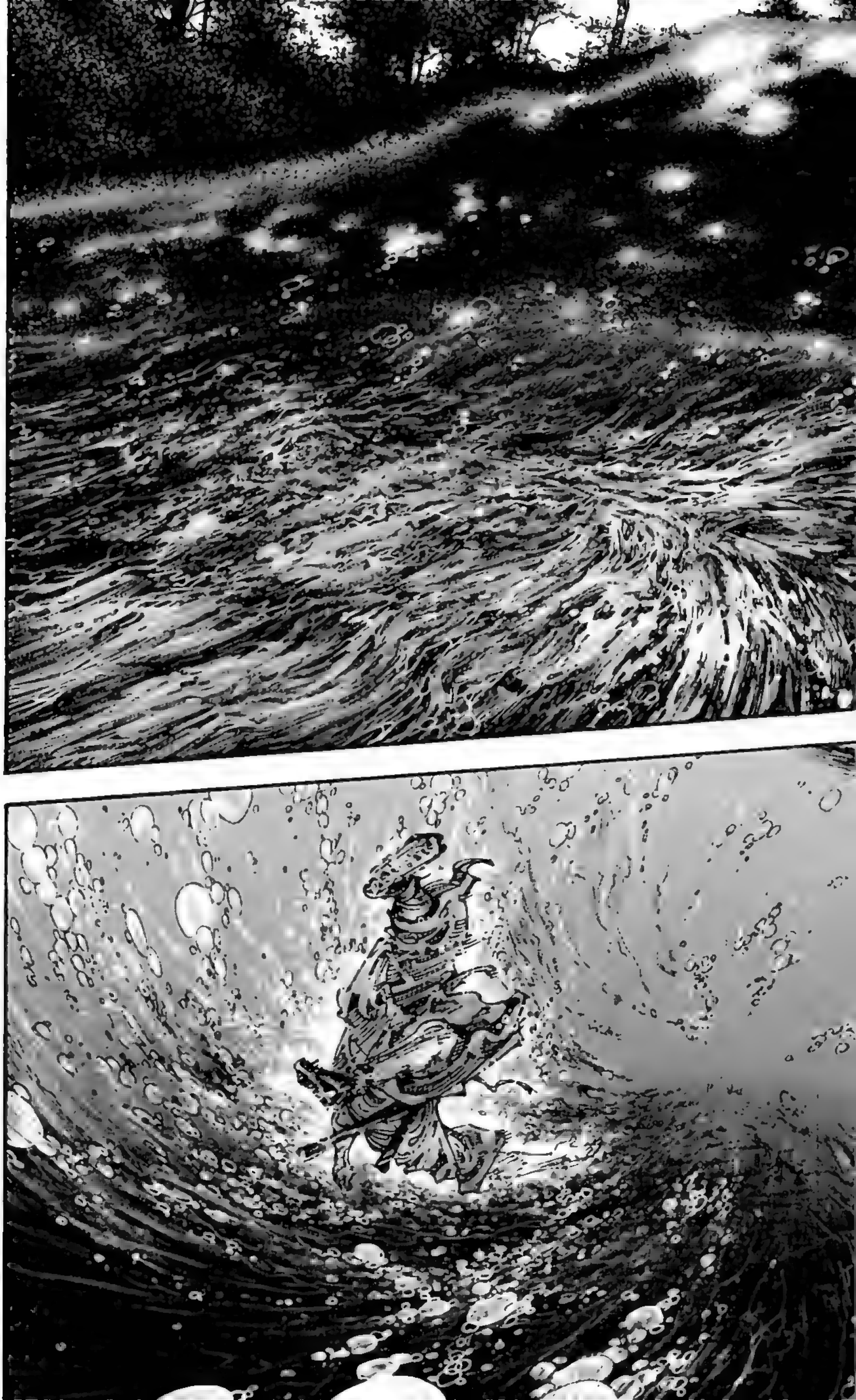
THEN WHY DOES HE FLEE?

IT'S A GREAT POST!

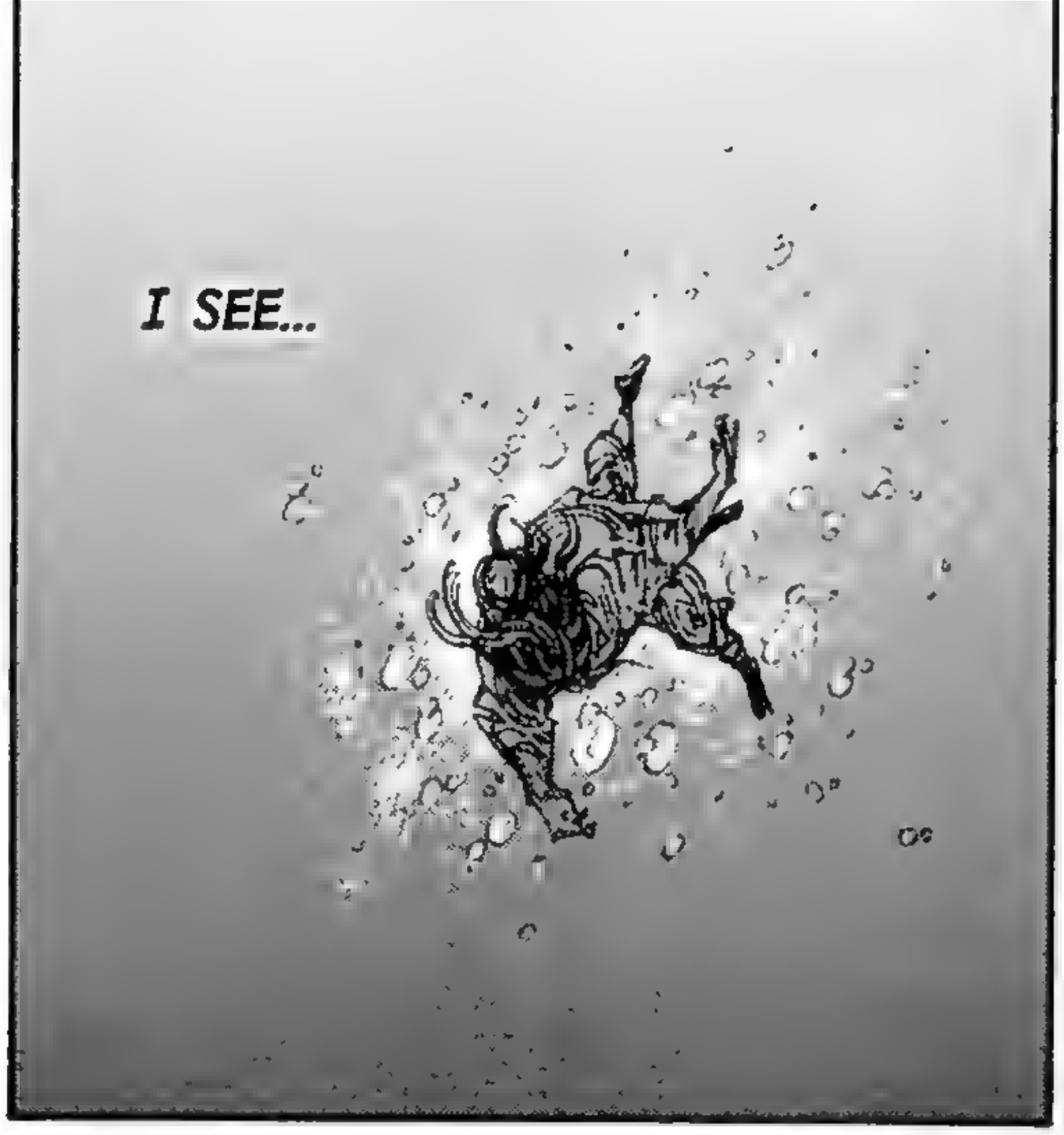
MORE-OVER, HE'S LIMPING ON HIS RIGHT LEG.

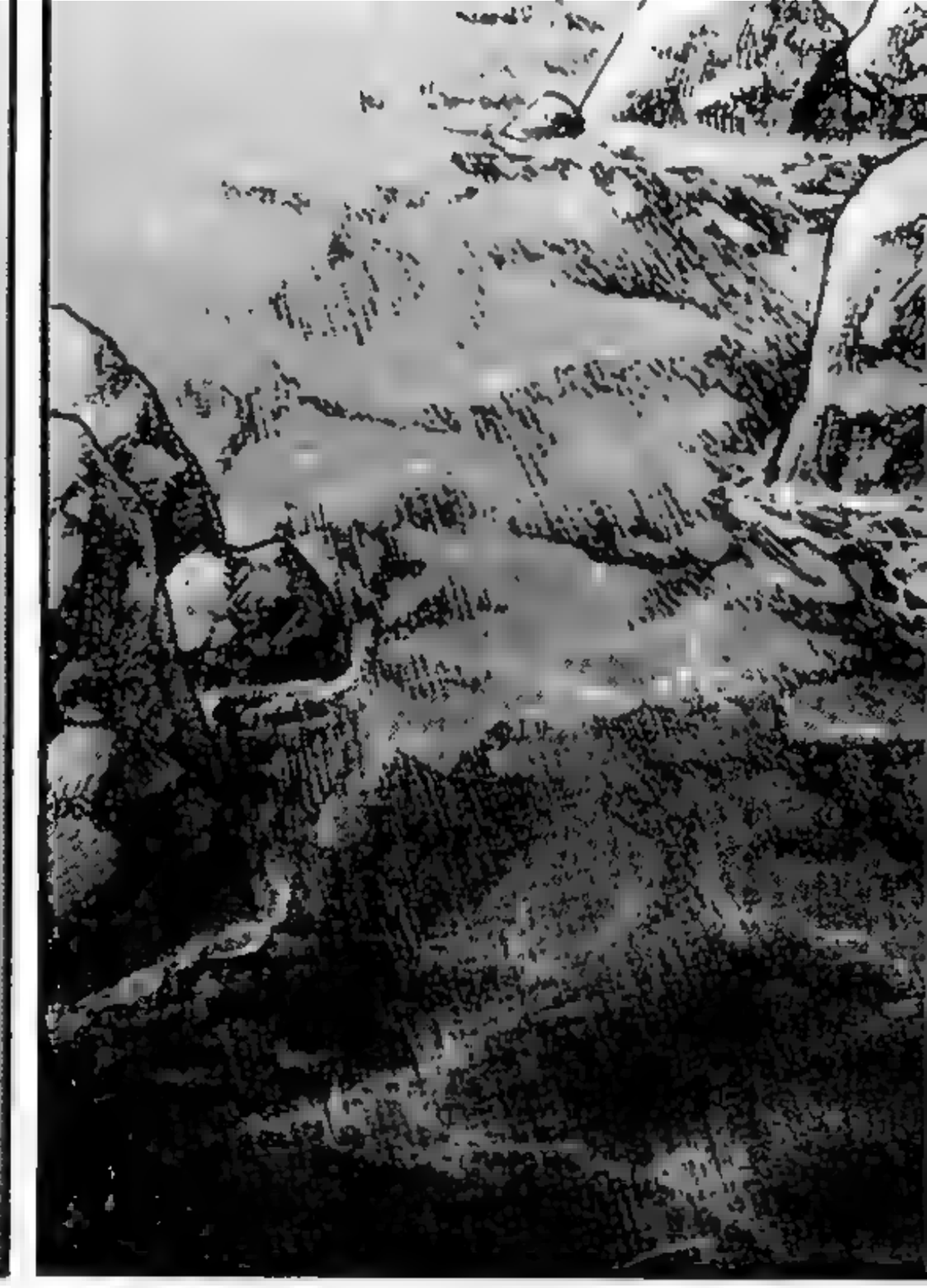
HIS APPEAR-ANCE MATCHES.

IT'S HIM...



THAT'S IT.
THIS SOUND!
THERE'S NO MISTAKE. IT'S WATER FLOWING.
THE SOUND OF WATER.
RELEASE YOUR BODY AND LET YOURSELF GO.





THIS IS WHAT IS ALWAYS INSIDE OF YOU, KOJIRO.

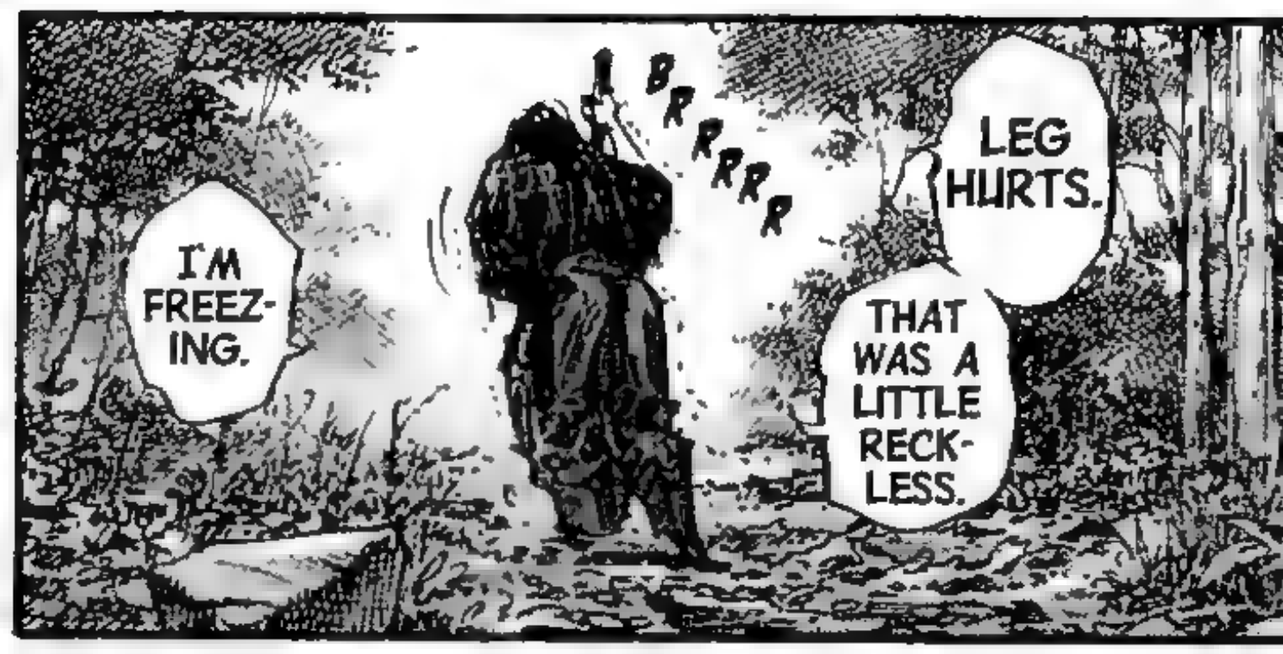
A RIVER FLOWING WITHIN.

BRRRR
UNGH ...
SO COLD...
NO STRENGTH ...

HUF HUF HUF

PLOOSH

A-ANYONE HERE?
KNOCK KNOCK
HELLO!
...


BRRRRR
I'M FREEZ-ING.
LEG HURTS.
THAT WAS A LITTLE RECK-LESS.

...

FWSHHH
...

HEY!

#291 Seven Years

WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU'RE FREEZING.
YOU'RE SO COLD!
YOU NEED TO WARM UP WITH MY BODY HEAT.
HERE.

SHE'S WARM...
SO WARM.

SHOULD'VE DONE THIS SOONER...

HEY!

SLAP

?!

FWP

...

SLAP

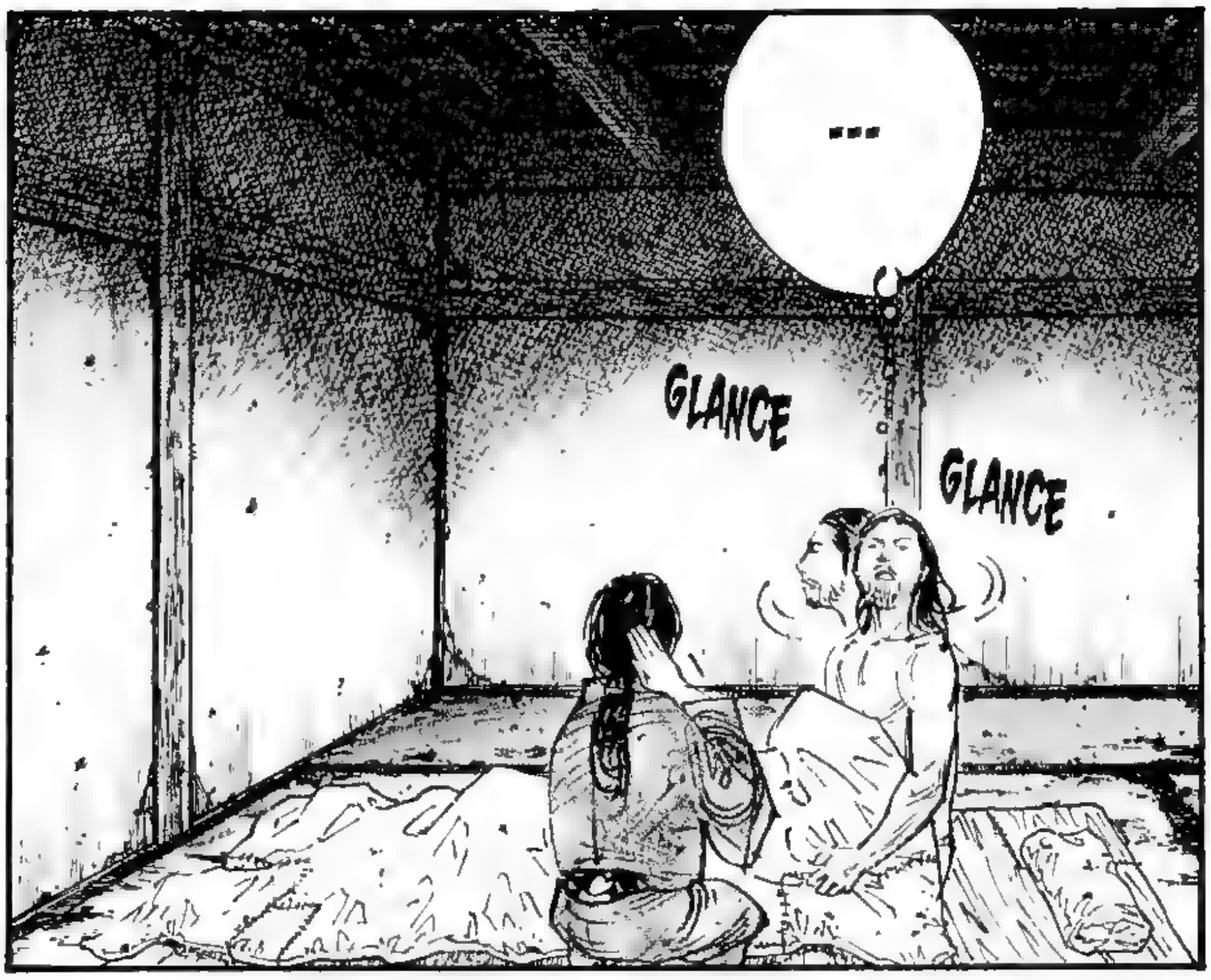
NO GROPING!

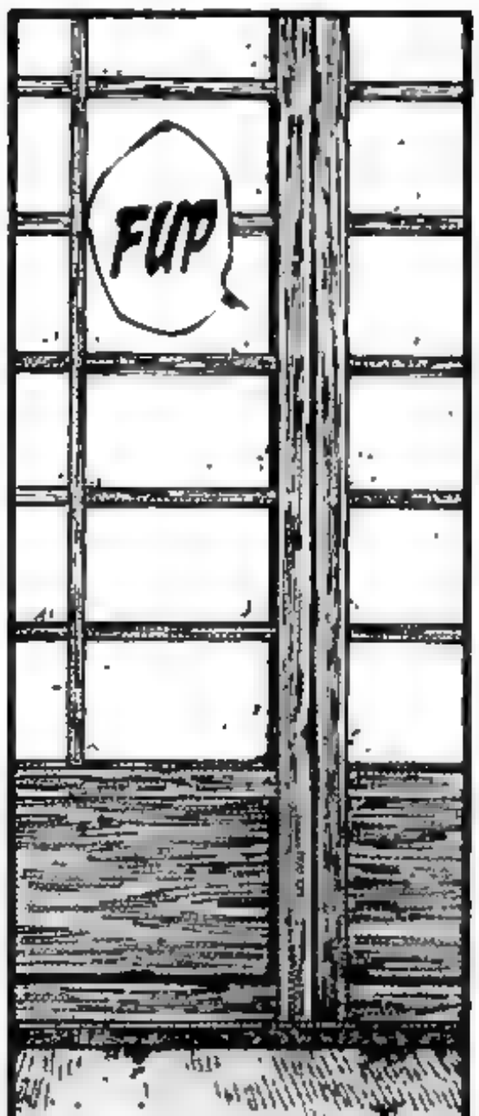
IF YOU'RE WARMED UP, THEN WE'RE DONE!

...

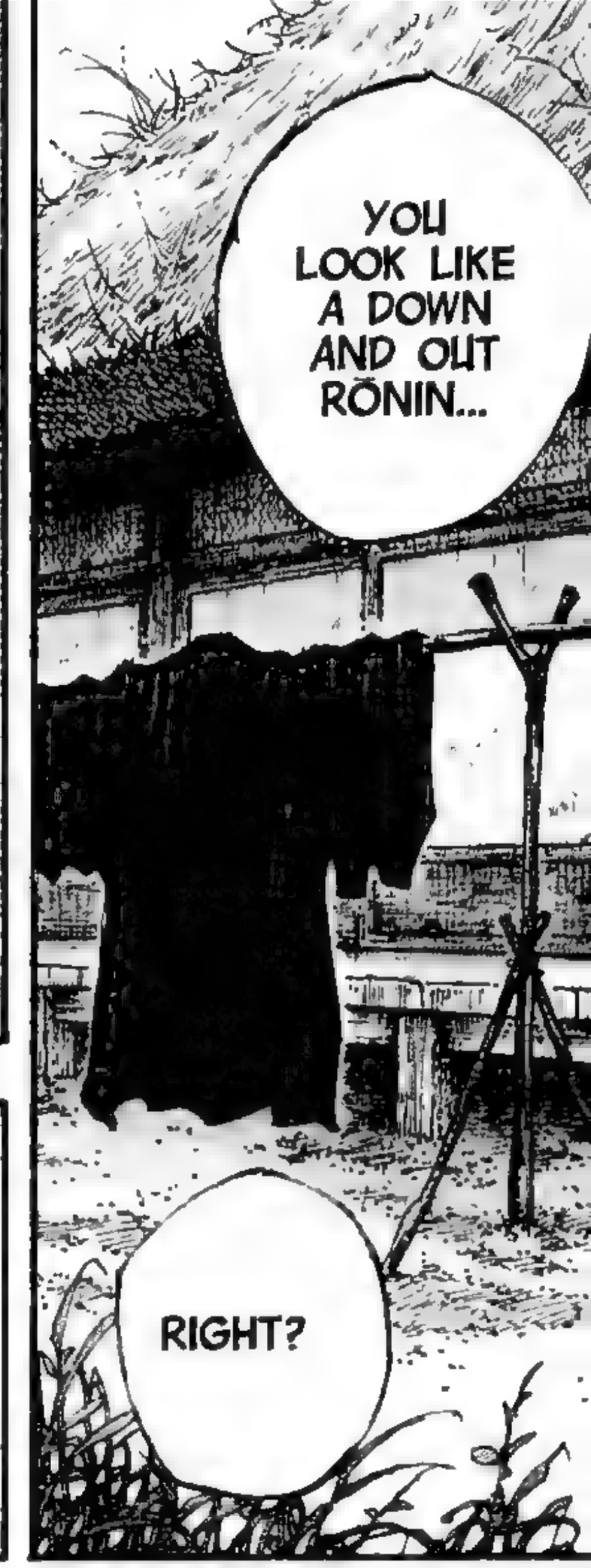
YOU SAID YOU SWAM IN THE RIVER IN THIS FREEZING WEATHER, SO I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WEREN'T RIGHT IN THE HEAD.

YOU LOOK SANE ENOUGH.





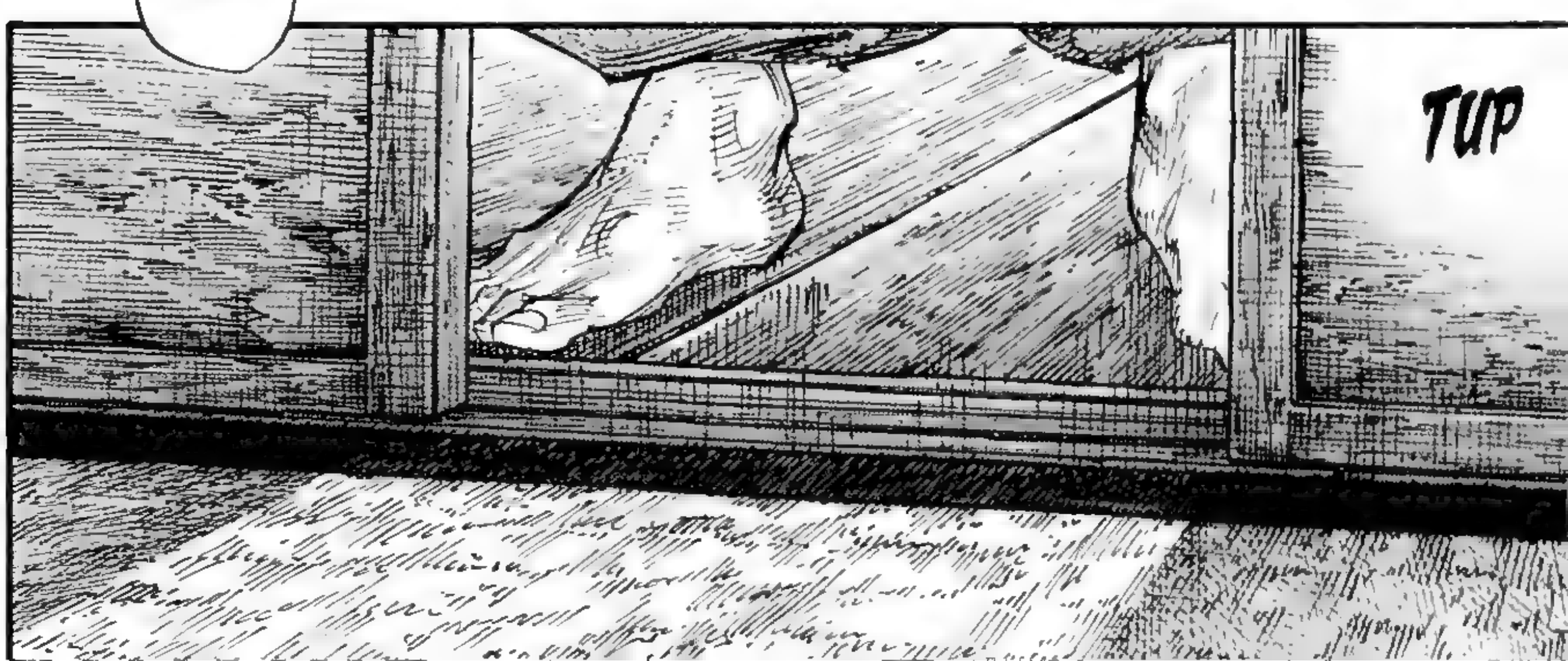
NOT PARTICU-LARLY.
ARE YOU HEADED ANYWHERE?
YOU HAVE A PLACE TO STAY?


YOU LOOK LIKE A DOWN AND OUT RÔNIN...
RIGHT?

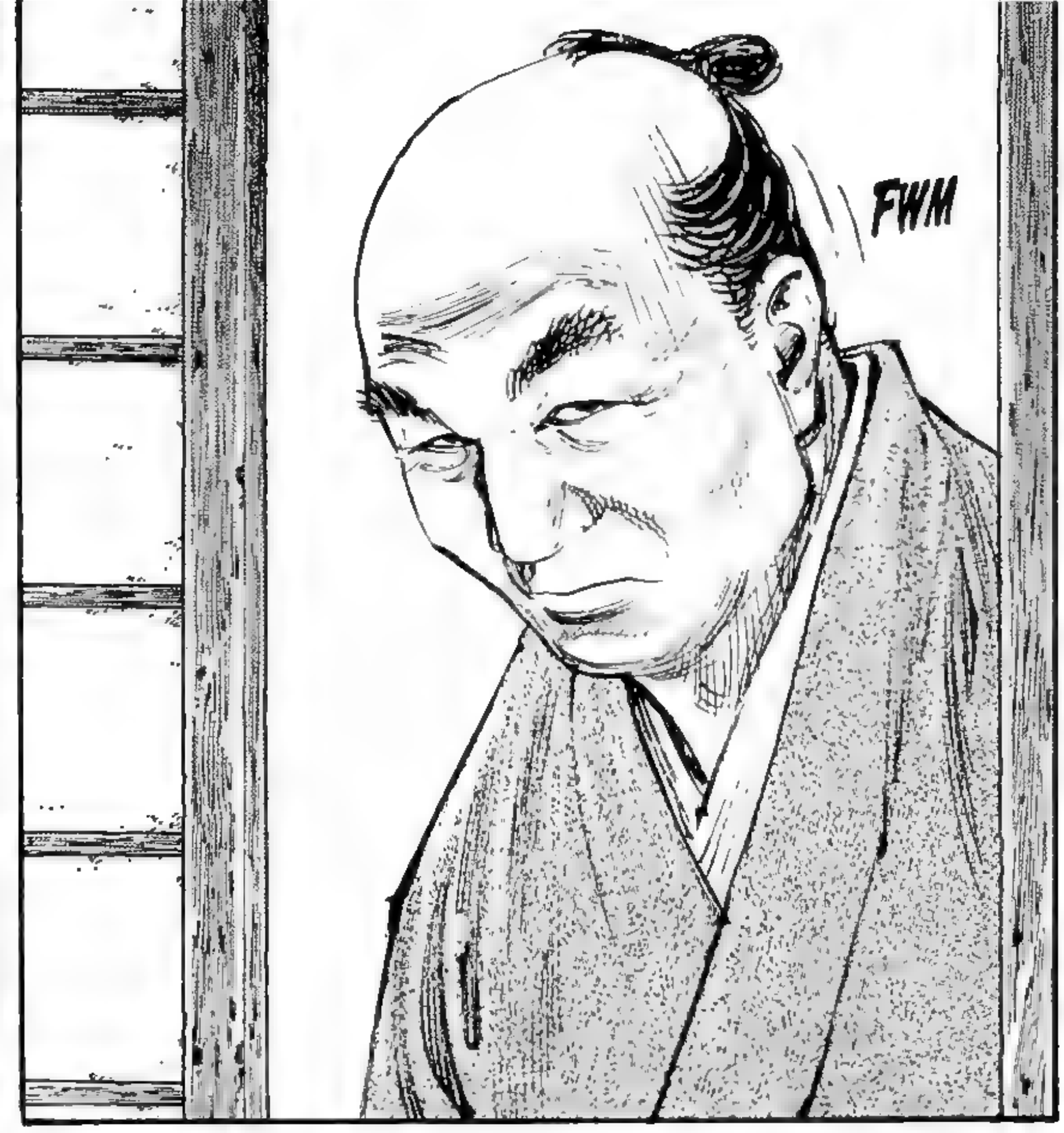
WELL THEN, STAY HERE.

...YOU HAVE TO EARN YOUR KEEP.
WHAT?

AS LONG AS YOU LIKE...
BUT...
HUH?


TUP

...!!
HERE, WEAR THIS.

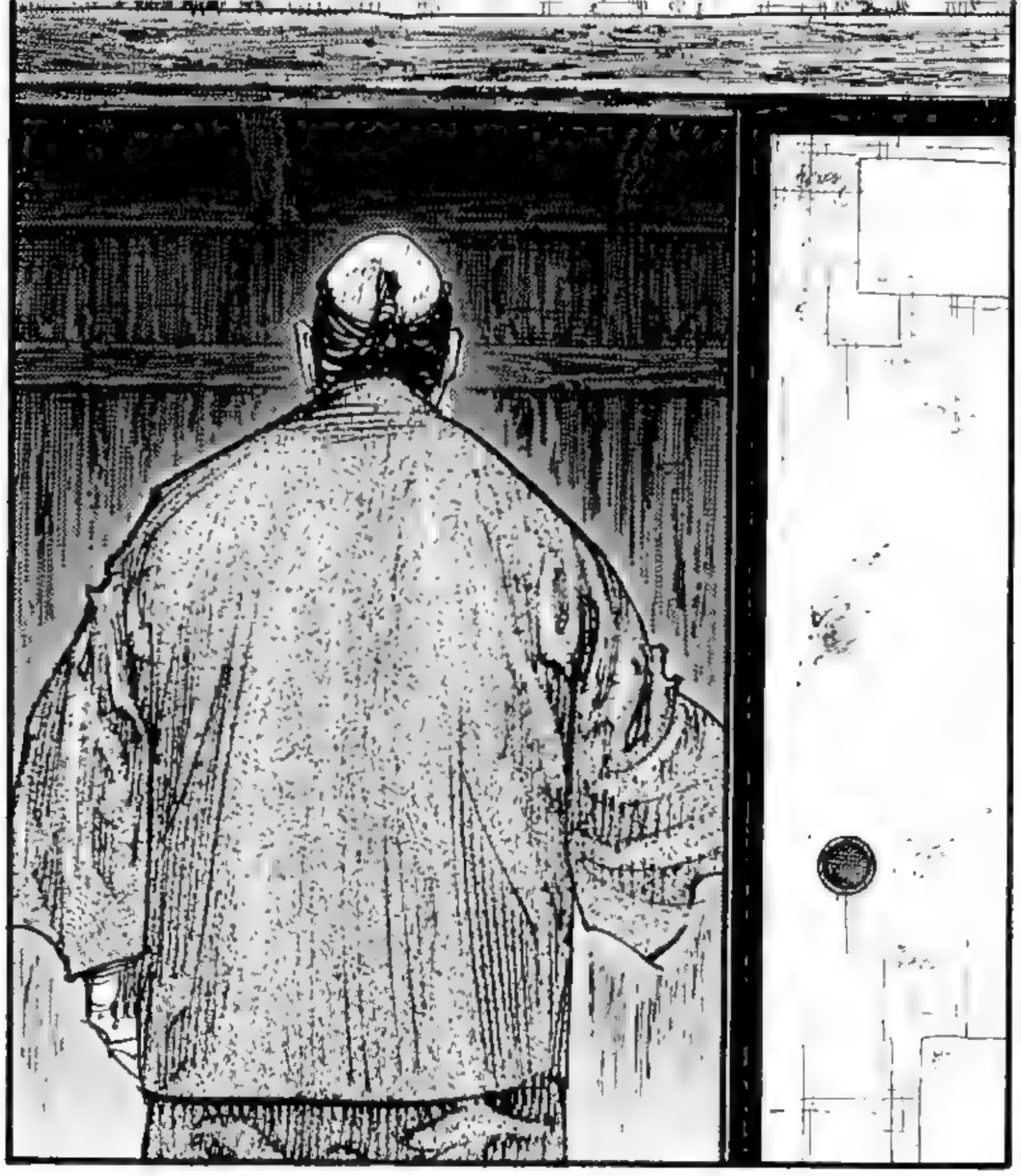

FWM

SO HE IS A RŌNIN.
HE'S STAYING WITH US.

IT'S MY HUSBAND'S, BUT IT STILL SEEMS SMALL FOR YOU.

YOU'RE A BIG ONE.

...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT ISN'T IT?



NOD

FWMP

HE MAKES BUDDHA STATUES.

BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO LIVE OFF OF...

WE HAVE TO FARM.

A SCULPTOR.

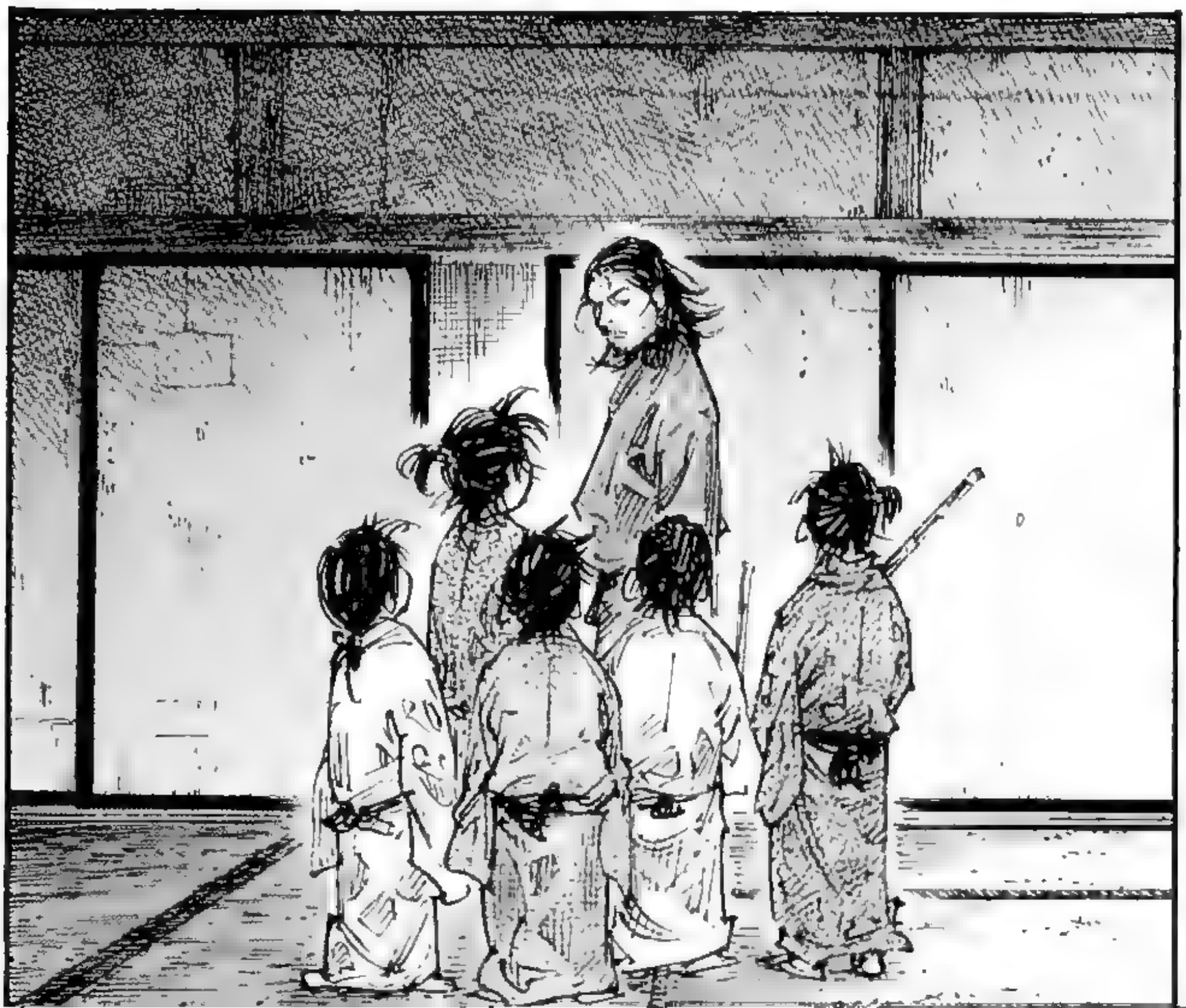
...

TAP

TAP

TAP

HEY! STOP THAT!
KLAK KLAK YAH! YAH!
HAVE TO EAT AFTER ALL.
THUP THUP



BY THE WAY...

I FORGOT TO ASK YOU. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MIYA--

...

HAH

YAHH

...

...

TAKEZŌ...

I'M TAKEZŌ.

HEY, STOP PUSHING.

DON'T BLOCK THE ROAD. LEAVE SPACE FOR PEOPLE TO PASS.

COME ON.

PLEASE.

THE FIGHT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR...
THE DUEL AT FUNAJIMA...
MUSASHI AND KOJIRŌ...

WHEN MUSASHI WAS TWENTY-NINE YEARS OLD.

THAT WAS WHEN WE WERE...

IT WAS SEVEN YEARS AFTER HE TOOK ON THE SEVENTY MEN OF THE YOSHIOKA.

BUT...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MUSASHI WAS DOING DURING THAT TIME...

...BECAUSE I WAS WITH KOJIRŌ IN KOKURA.

...OF THE RUMORS OUT THERE, I KNEW WHICH STORIES WERE LIES...

...AND WHICH ONES WERE TRUE.

"HE WOULD NEVER DO THAT."

"YEAH, I COULD SEE HIM DOING THAT."

IT'S LIKE--DO YOU HAVE A BROTHER ?

EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T THERE?

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN APART. BROTHERS ARE BROTHERS.

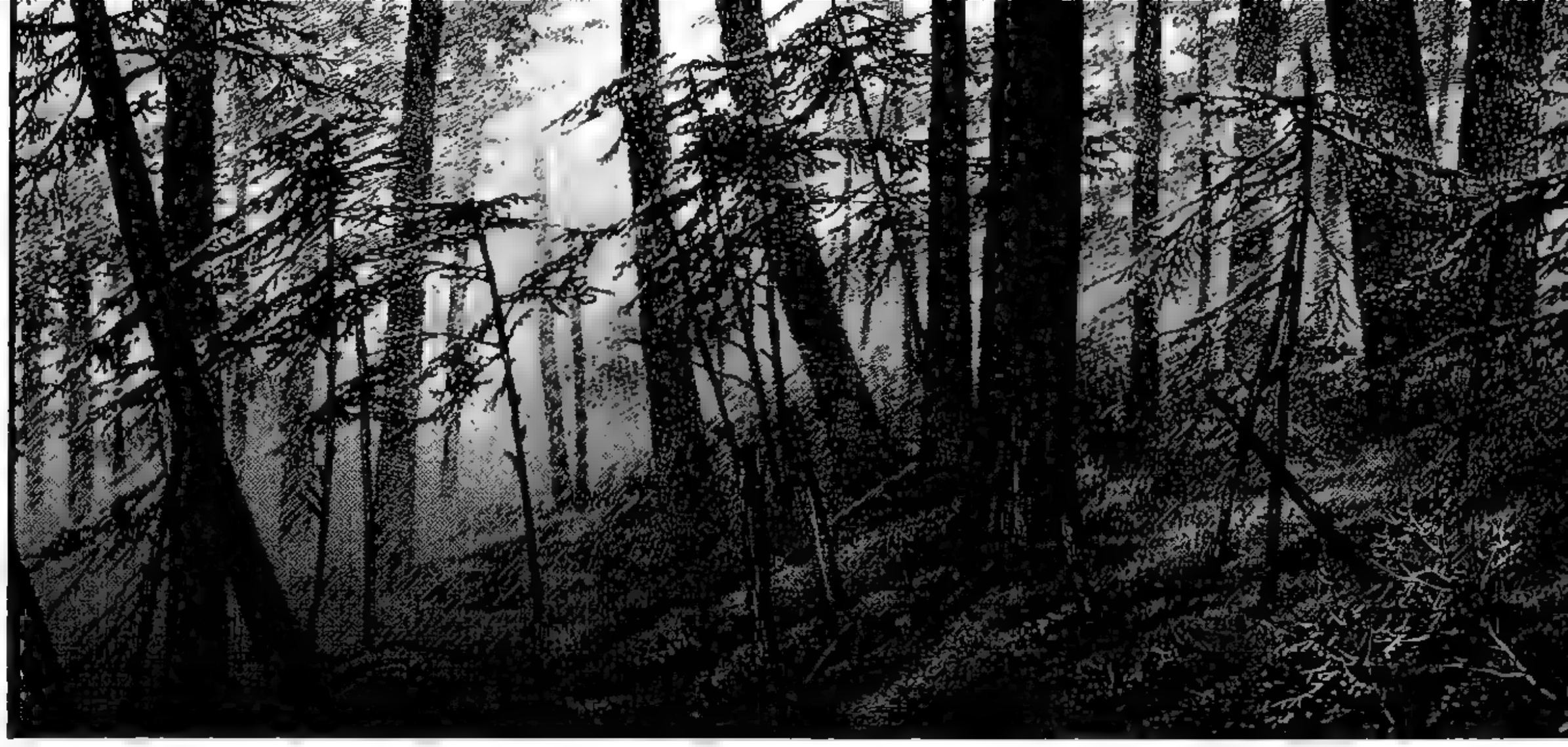
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE TOGETHER TO KNOW CERTAIN THINGS.

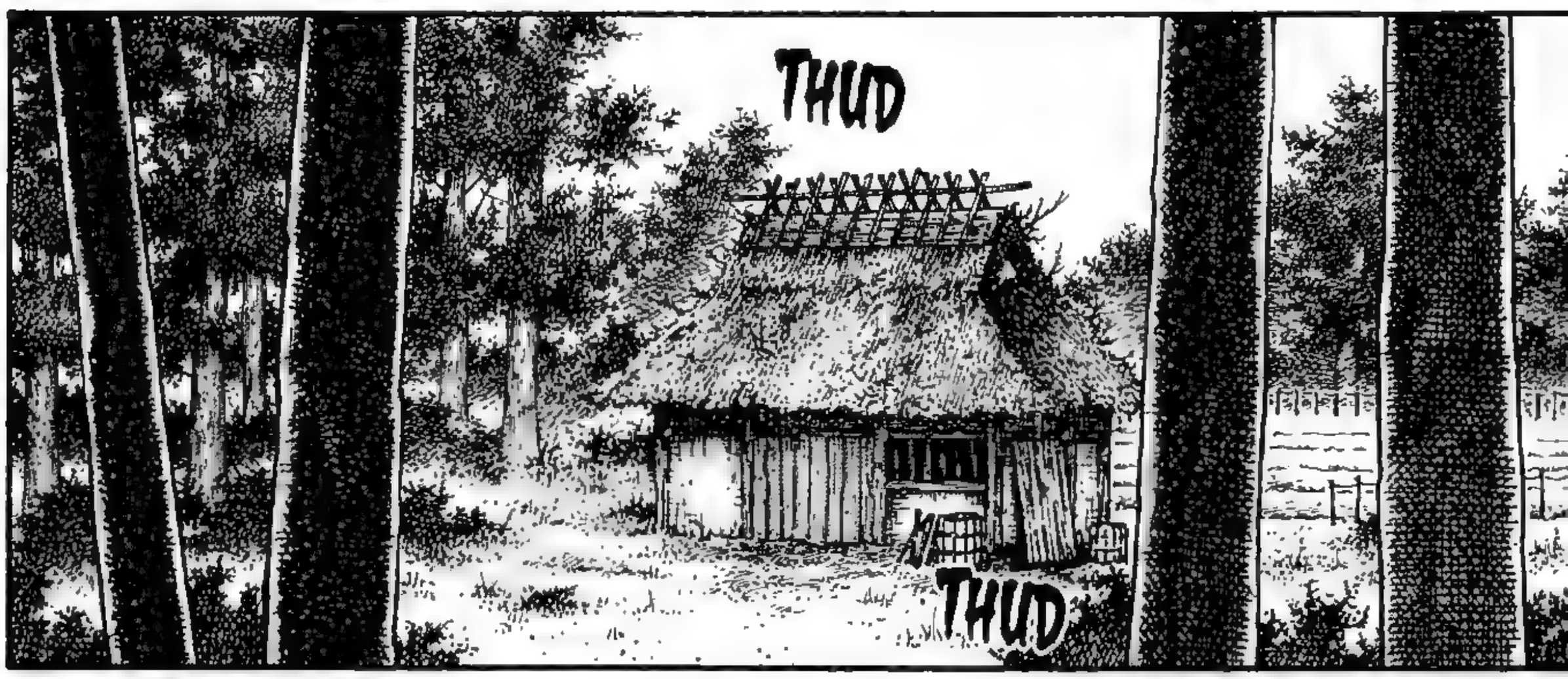
NOW THEN...

JUST FOR A BIT, I'D LIKE TO RECOUNT THOSE SEVEN YEARS PRIOR TO MUSASHI'S ARRIVAL AT KOKURA.

JUST FOR A BIT, OKAY?

#292 | Faces




THUD
THUD

...

YAA
HH

TAP

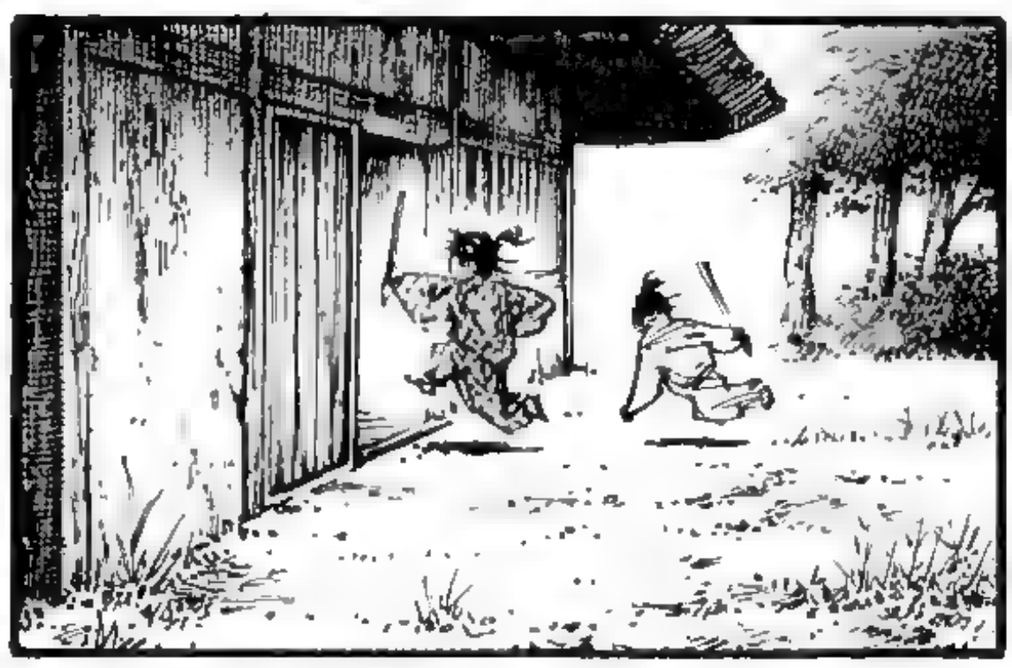
TAP

YOU MUST BE STRONG.

...

GO OUTSIDE IF YOU'RE GOING TO RAISE A RUCKUS!

THUD
THUD



STOP IT! YOUR FATHER'S TRYING TO WORK!
THUD
THUD

WORK? HE CAN'T SELL A SINGLE STATUE!

HE SHOULD JUST--

SLAP

!!

THUDD

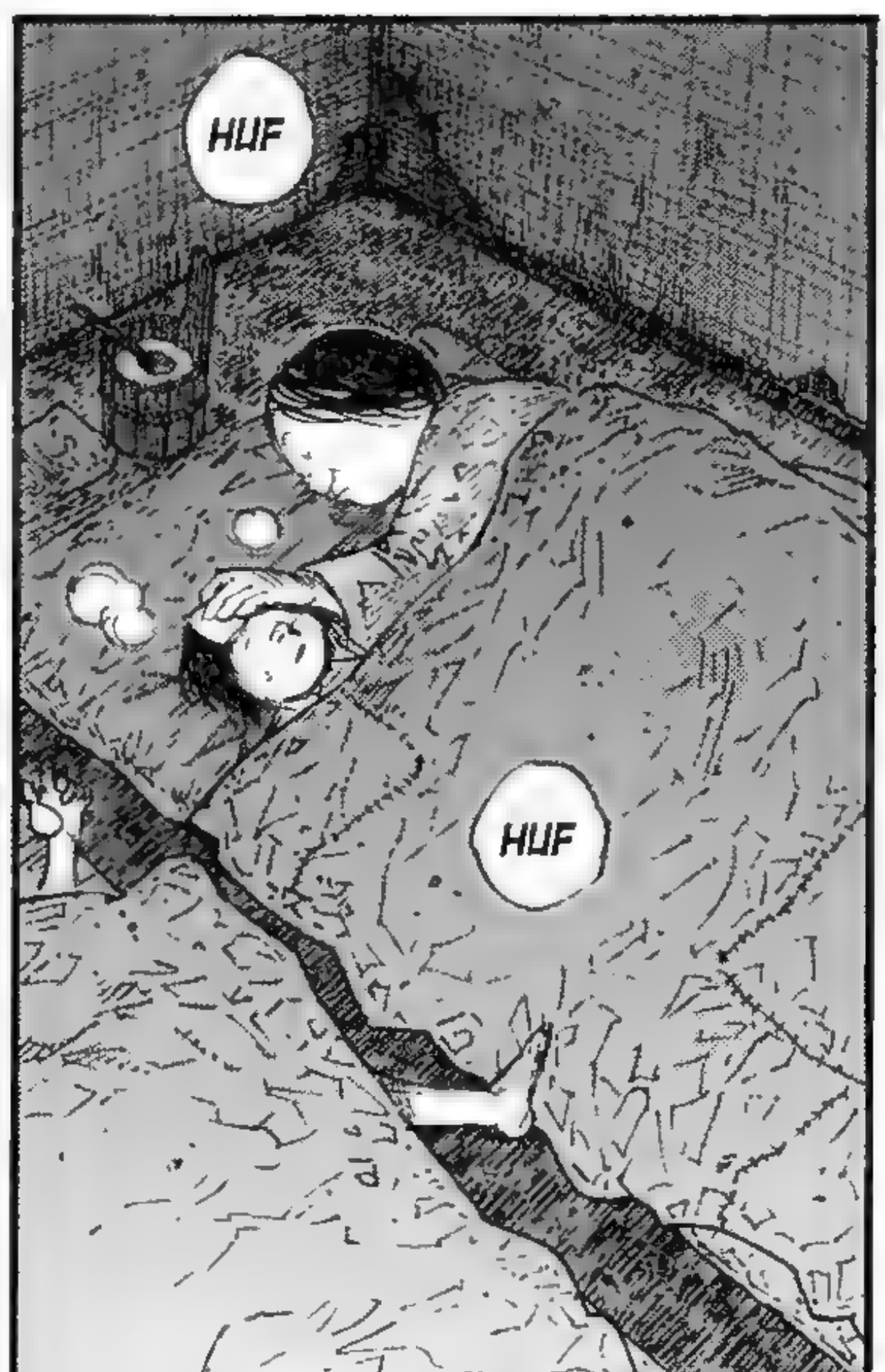
!

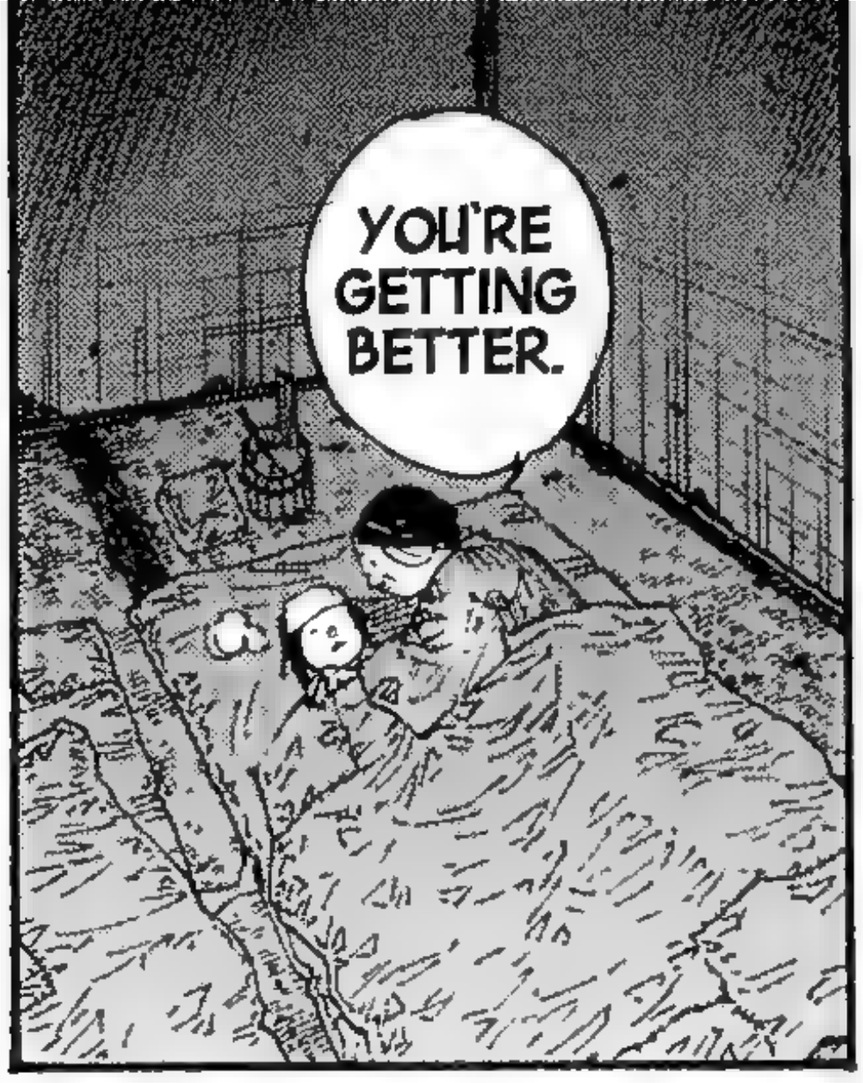
AH...

...

WAHHH!

WAHHH!




YOU'RE GETTING BETTER.

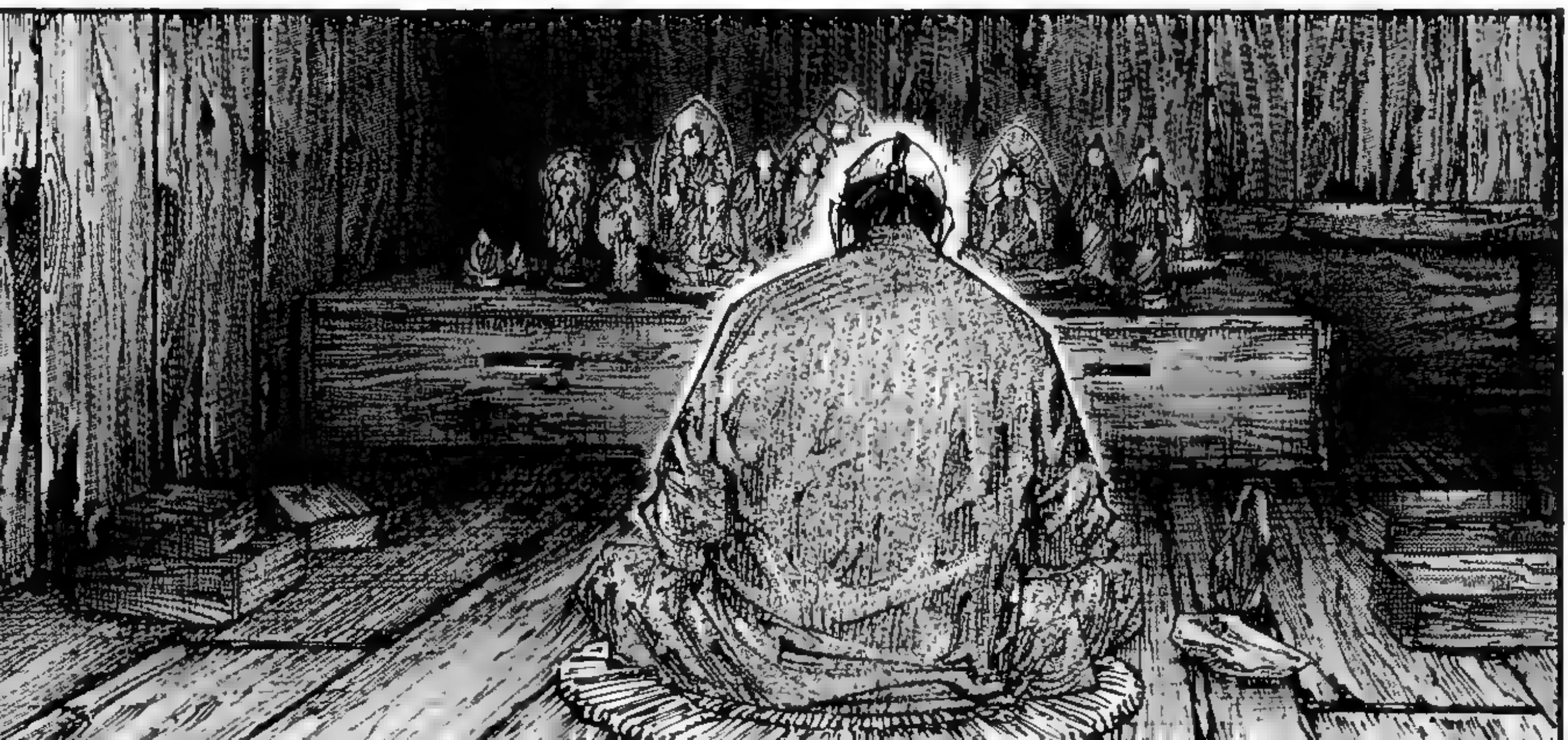
GULP

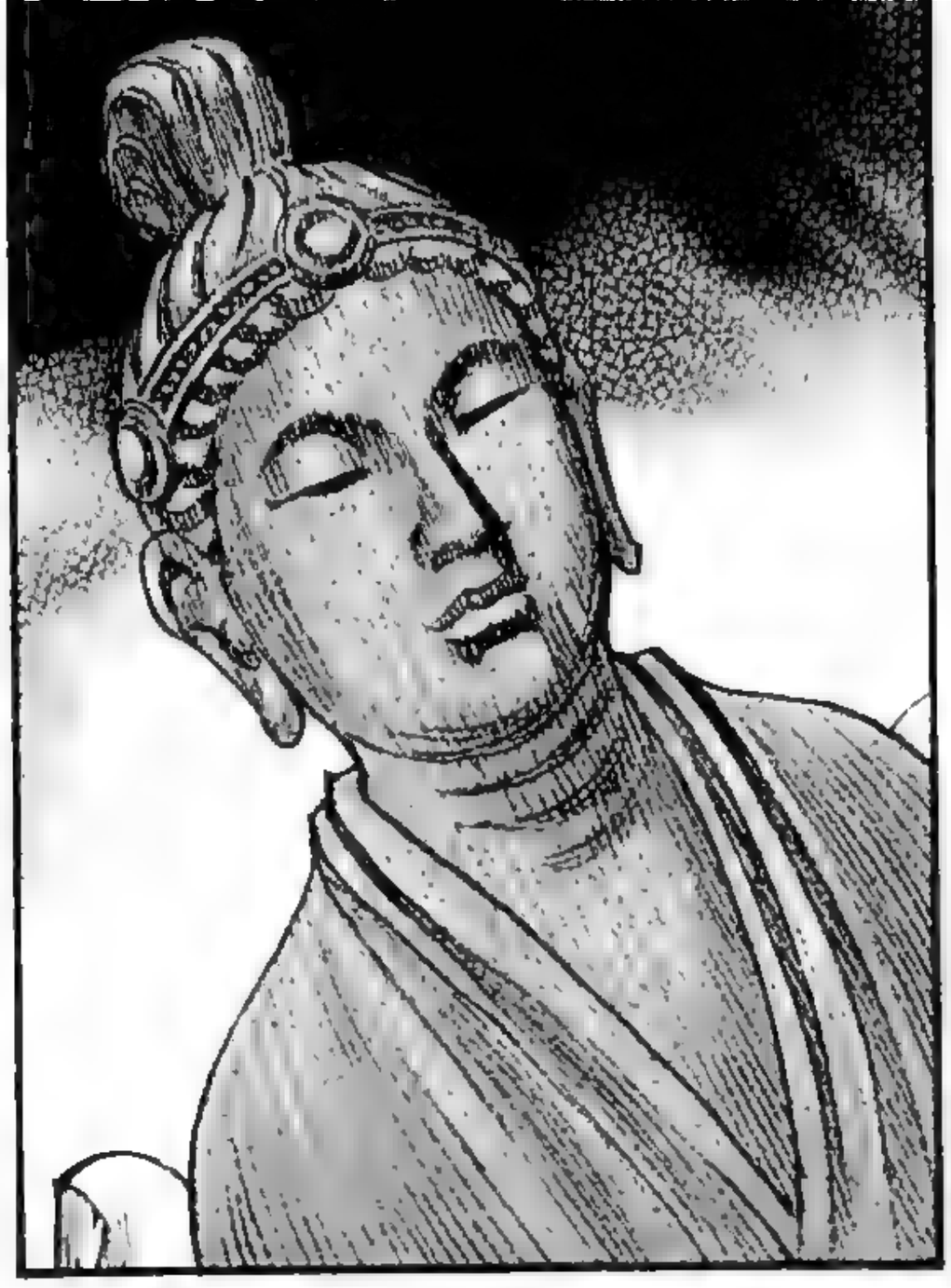
DON'T GULP IT DOWN.
SIP SLOWLY.

ANY LUCK?
WELCOME HOME.
NO.

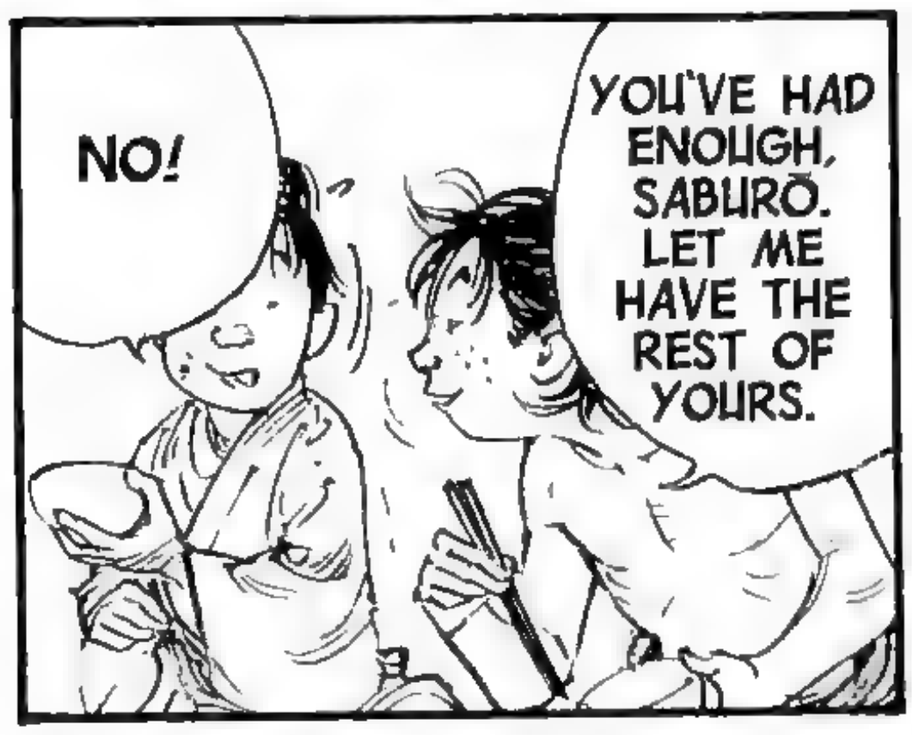
I'M BACK.

I SEE.





LET'S EAT!


NO!
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH, SABURŌ. LET ME HAVE THE REST OF YOURS.

LET ME HAVE YOURS THEN.
STOP IT, JIRŌ.

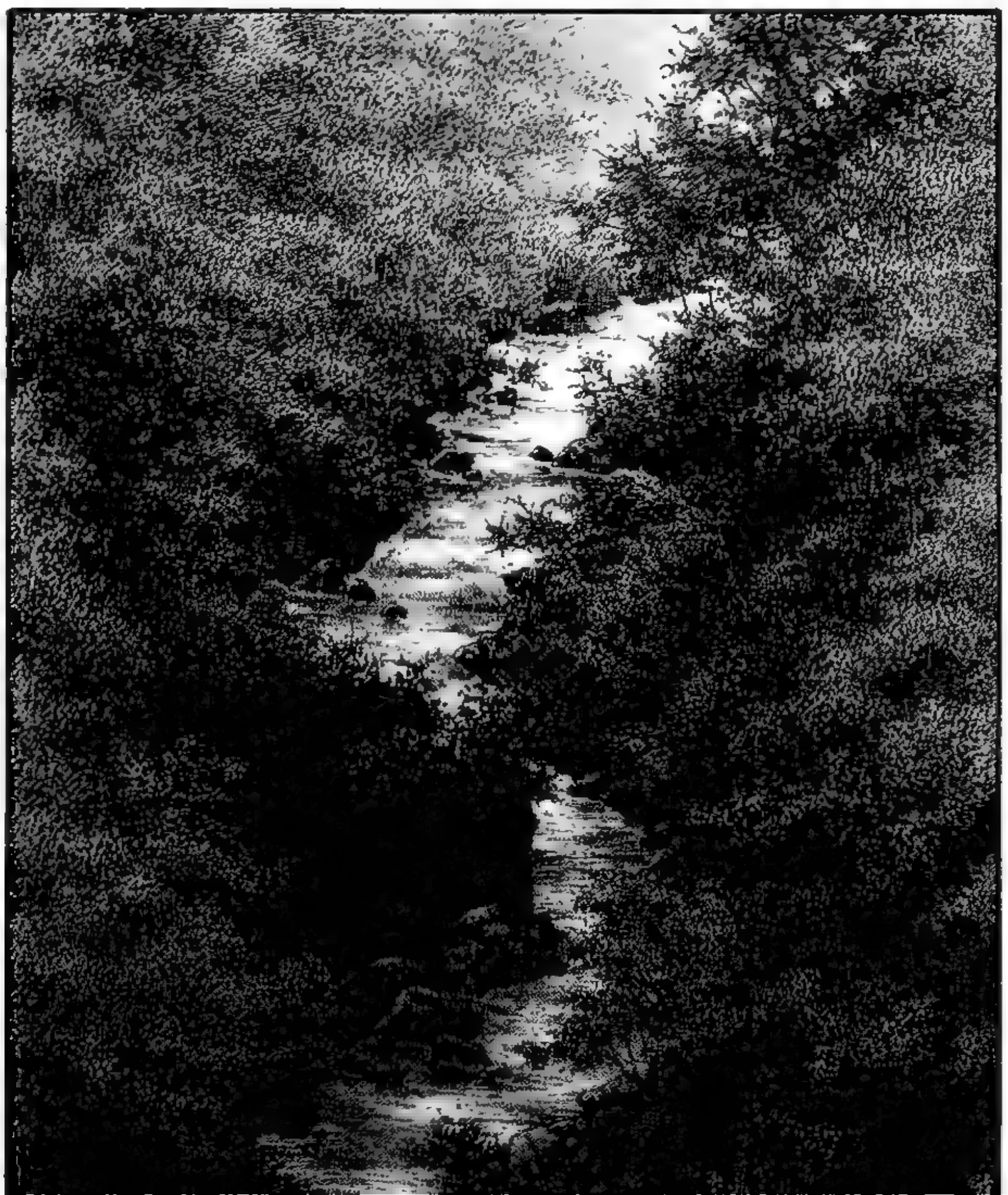
LICK
LICK

SLURP
SLURP

HUF
HUF
HUF
OKAY ...
THANKS.

KOGORŌ, HAVE A LITTLE OF THIS.
YOU HAVE TO EAT TO GET BETTER.

THANKS!
YOU'RE GIVING ME YOURS, TAKEZŌ?!



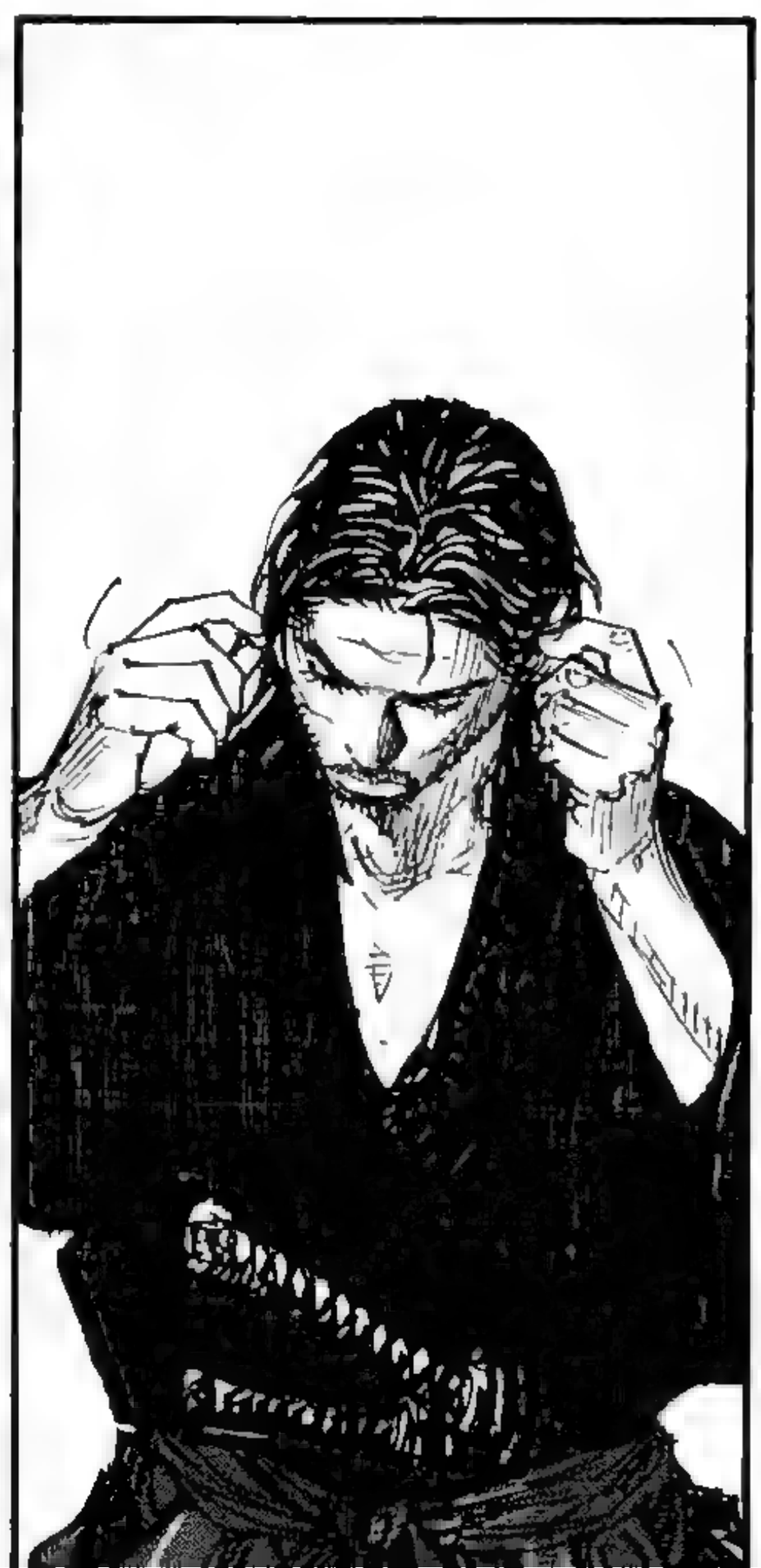
WE'RE GONNA EAT IT!
WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?
LOOK WHAT TAKEZŌ HUNTED DOWN!
...
YAY!

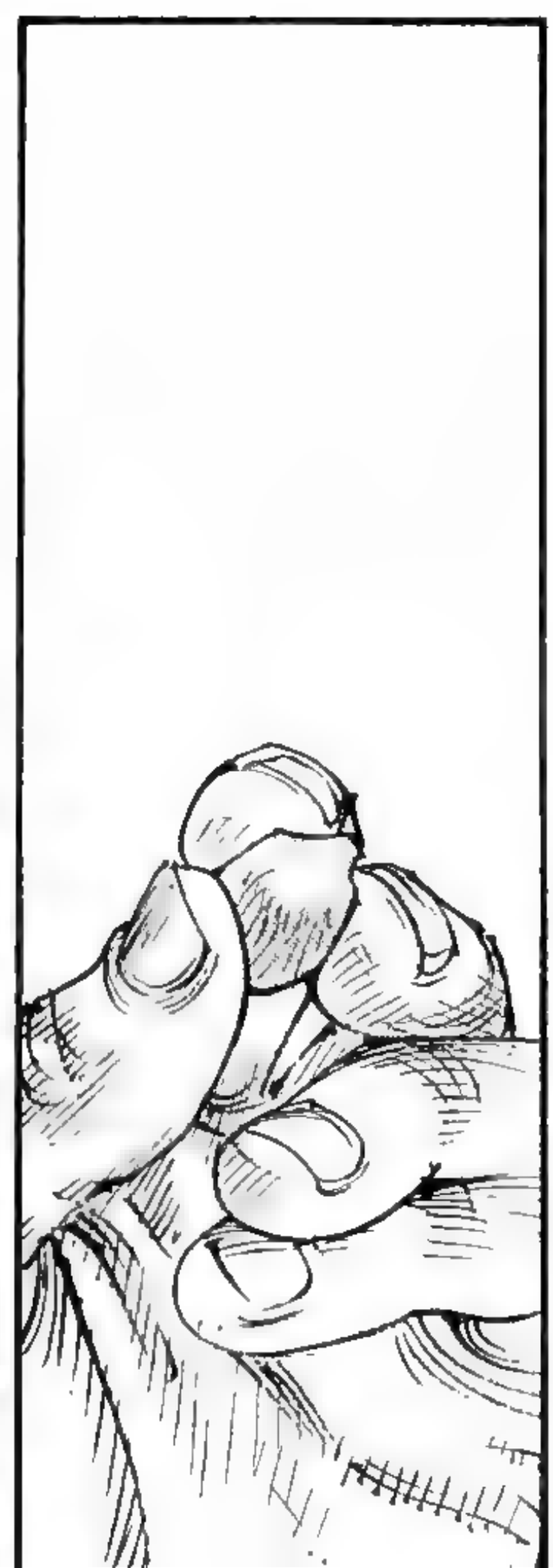
FOR-GIVE ME.

HEY!

YIPPEE!

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
YAH!
HAH!
YAHH!
HAH!





...

...
TAP

TAP
TAP
TAP

WANT TO TRY?

SHKK

...

...
CUTS BETTER THAN A SWORD, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
SLICES THROUGH THIS HARD WOOD AS IF IT WERE SOFT FLESH.

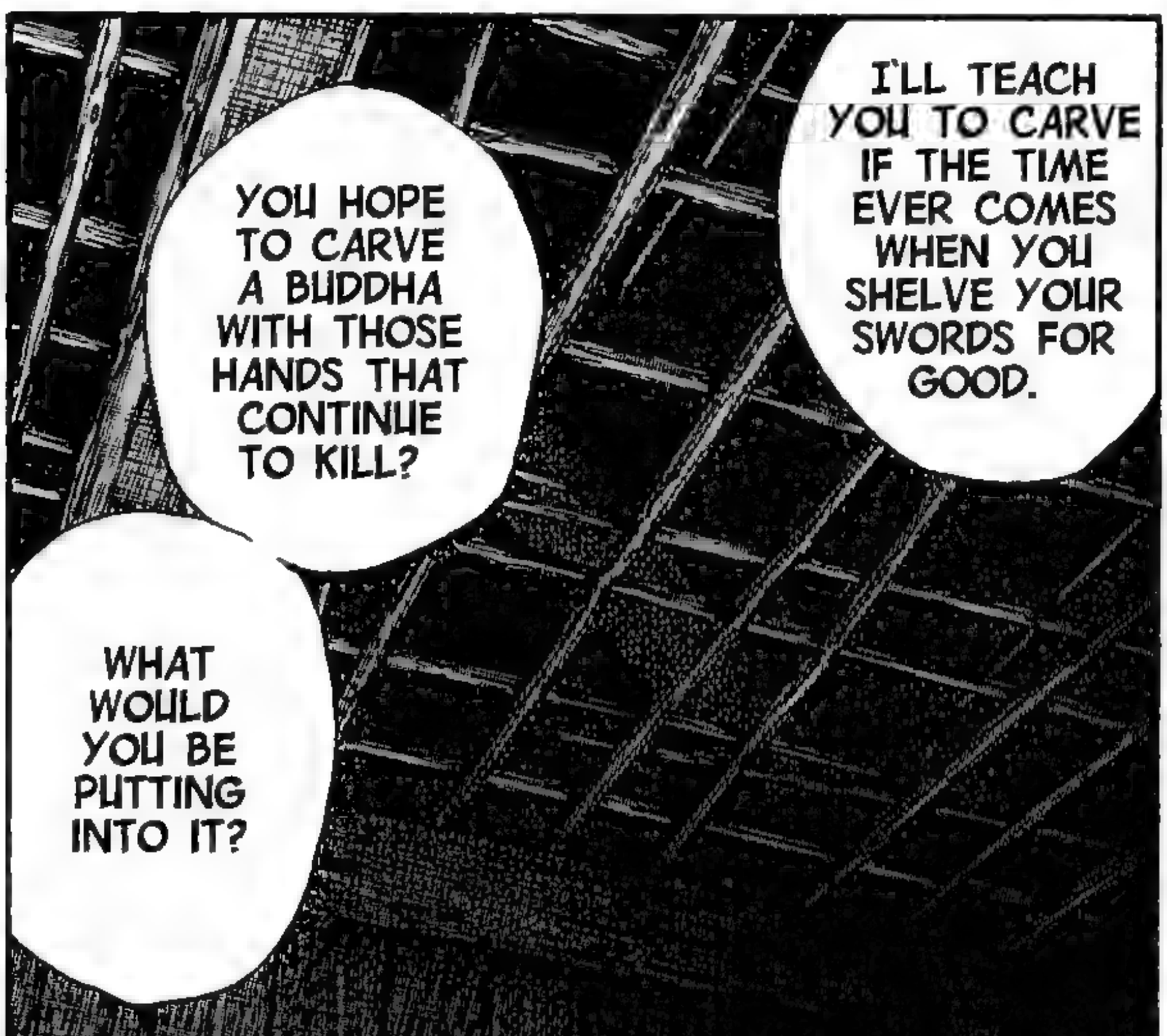
...!!

WHO ARE YOU?

TOOK A LOOK AT IT WHEN WE FIRST FOUND YOU...
THAT SWORD BELONGS TO SOMEONE WHO LONGS TO BE ONE WITH HIS SWORD.
I CAN TELL...

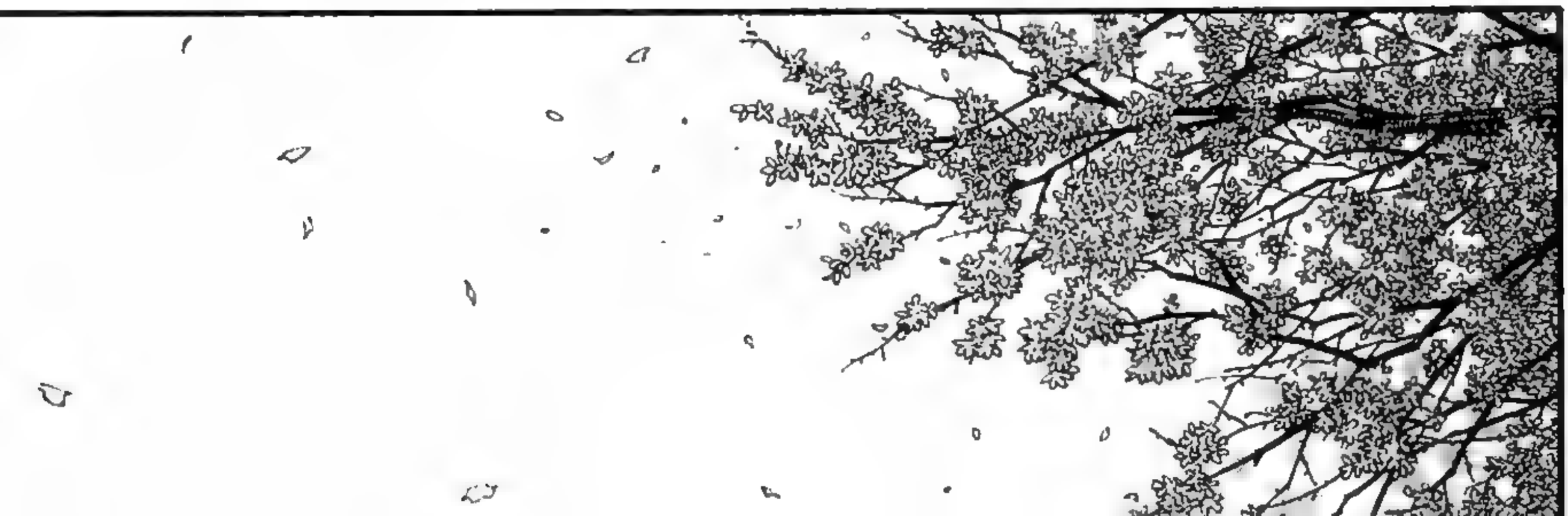
THAT'S AN EXTRAORDINARY SWORD.

EXTRAORDINARY...
OF COURSE IT IS...

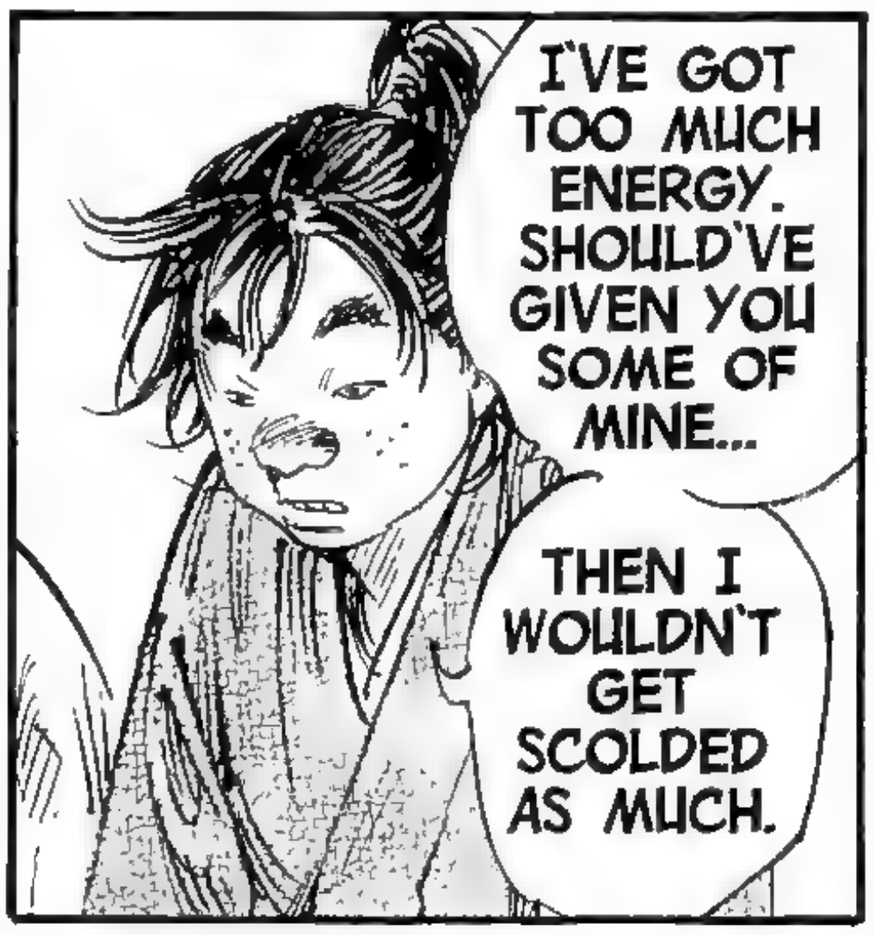

I'LL TEACH YOU TO CARVE IF THE TIME EVER COMES WHEN YOU SHELVE YOUR SWORDS FOR GOOD.
YOU HOPE TO CARVE A BUDDHA WITH THOSE HANDS THAT CONTINUE TO KILL?
WHAT WOULD YOU BE PUTTING INTO IT?

GIVE IT BACK.

IT WOULD ONLY SERVE TO CONFUSE THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD.



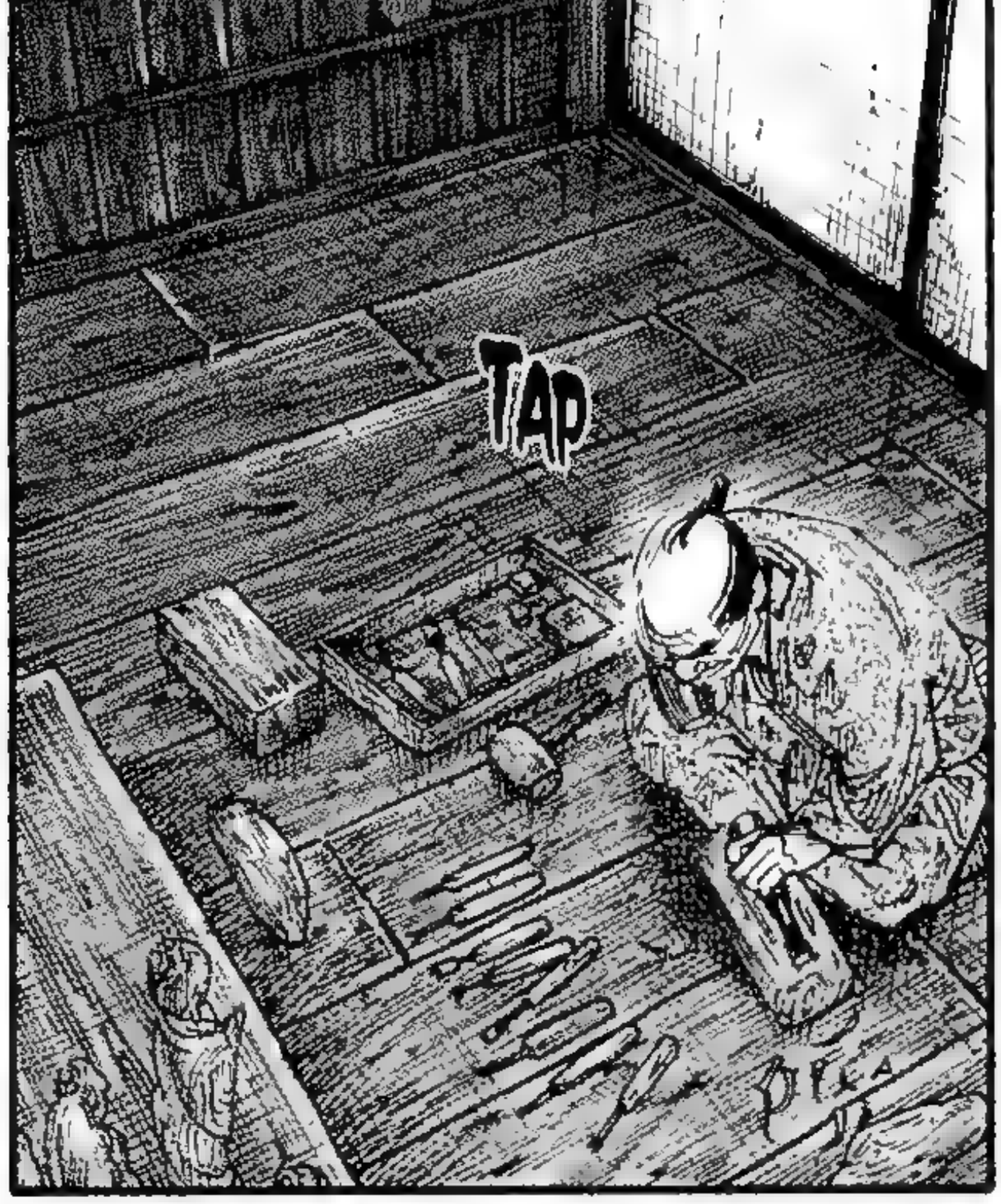
WHY...

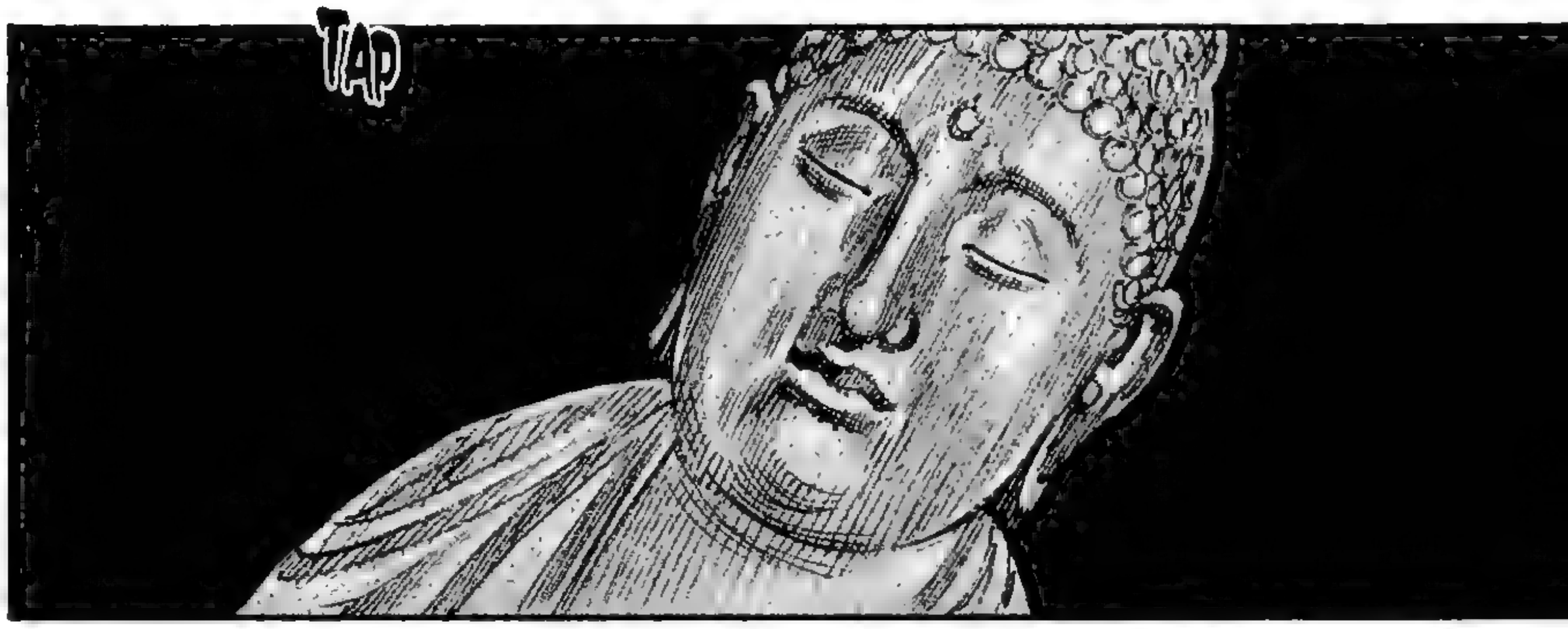

I'VE GOT TOO MUCH ENERGY. SHOULD'VE GIVEN YOU SOME OF MINE...
THEN I WOULDN'T GET SCOLDED AS MUCH.

LITTLE KOGORŌ'S THE YOUNGEST. WHY'D HE HAVE TO DIE FIRST?

AND MAYBE YOU MIGHT HAVE LIVED TO AT LEAST AS OLD AS I AM.

TAP
TAP





I SOLD SOME!

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN MAKE ENOUGH IN TIME...

AND THEY'VE PUT IN AN ORDER FOR THE NEW YEAR TO GIVE TO THEIR FOLLOWERS.

NO, I'LL MAKE SURE I DO.

TO TAISHŌJI TEMPLE!

REALLY?!

ARE YOU OKAY?

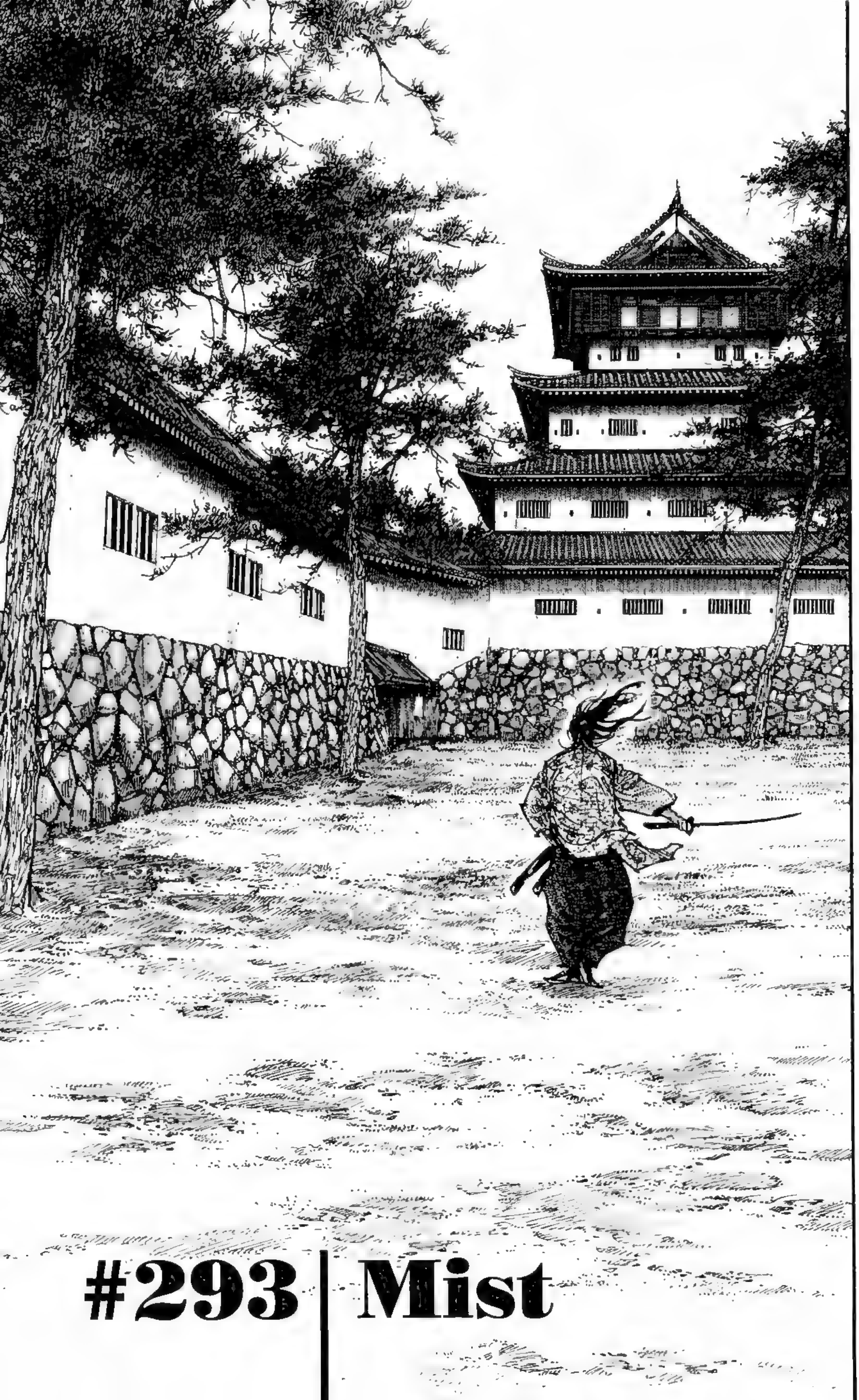
OUCH...

WONDER-FUL.

THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRA-TION.

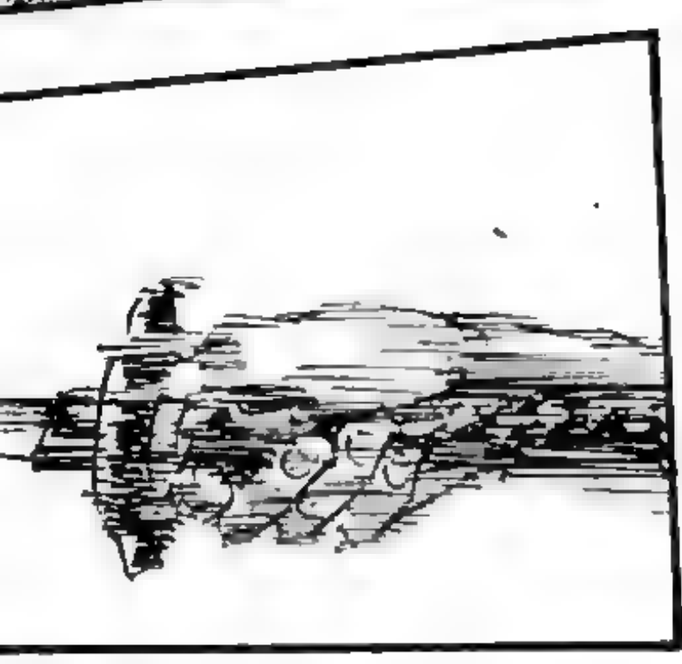
OUCH!

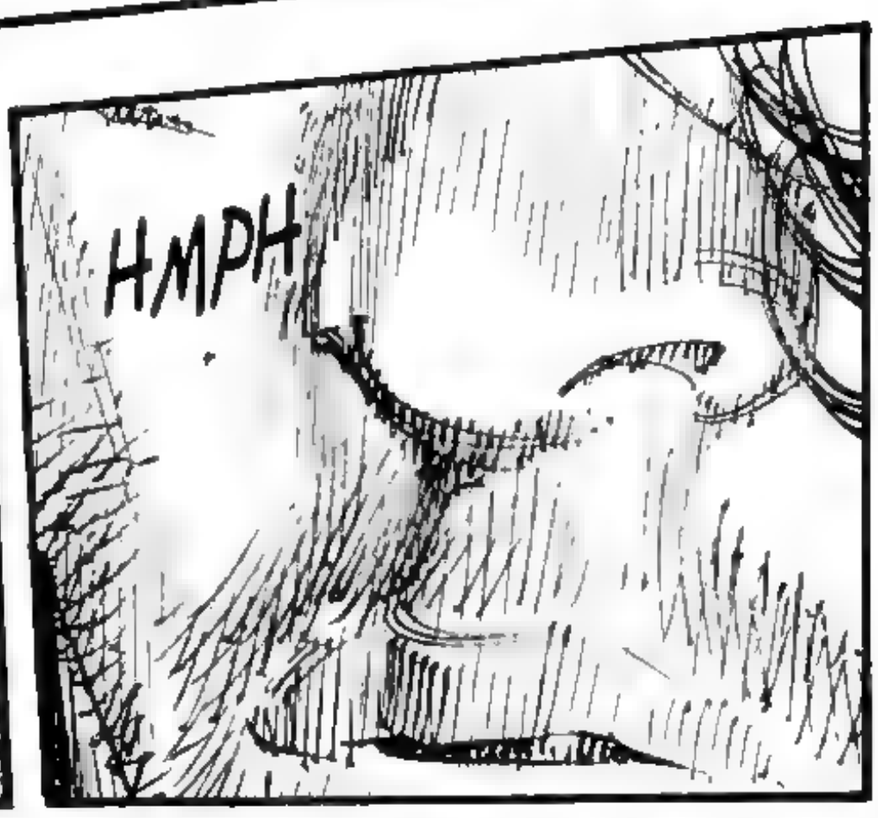
SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THE TORNADO WINDUP.

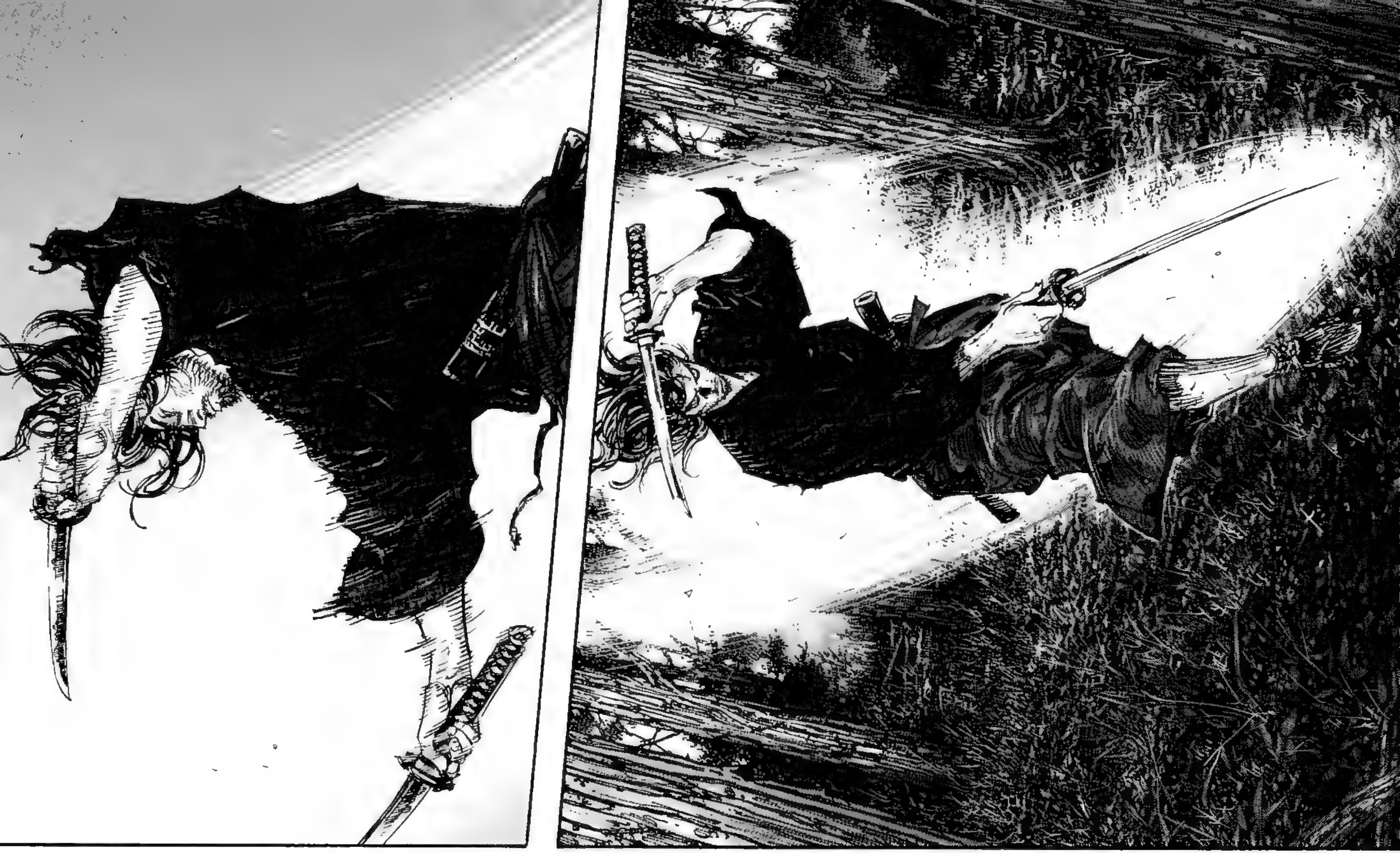


#293 | Mist

FWAP
FWAP



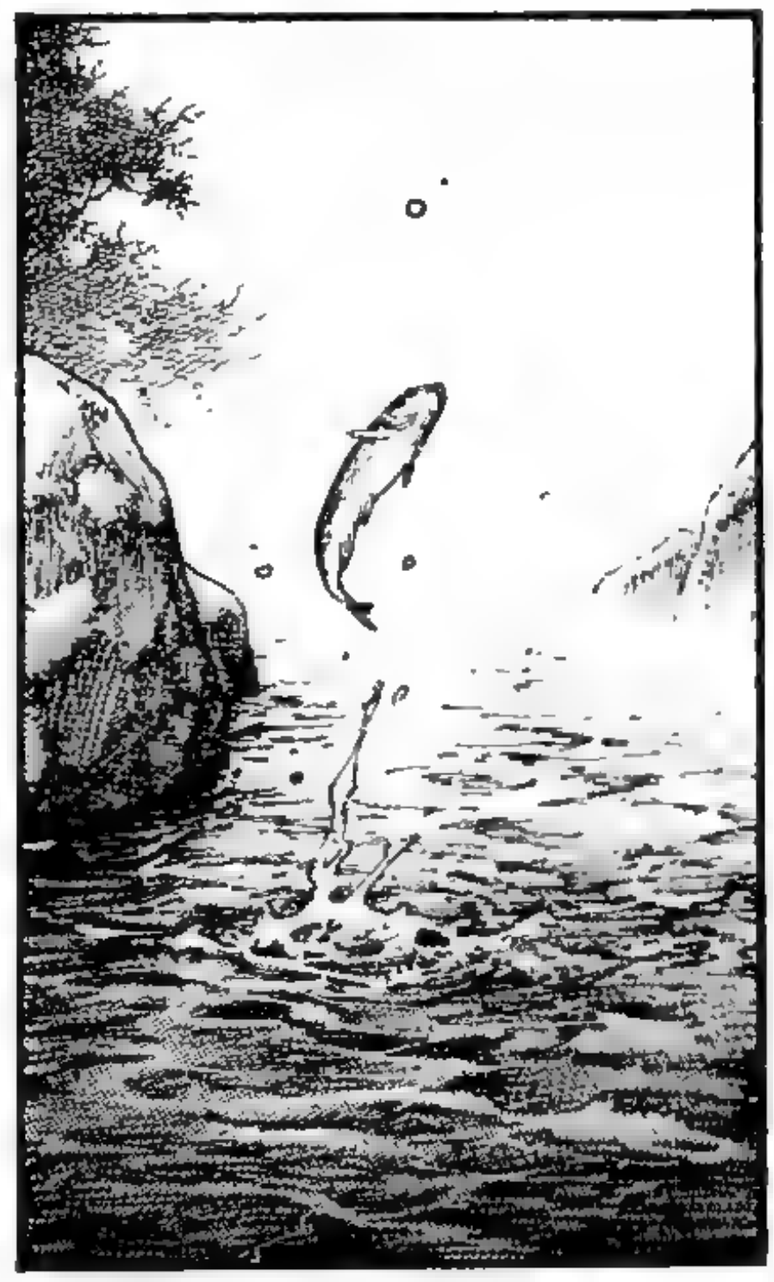

HMPH



IT HURTS...
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF

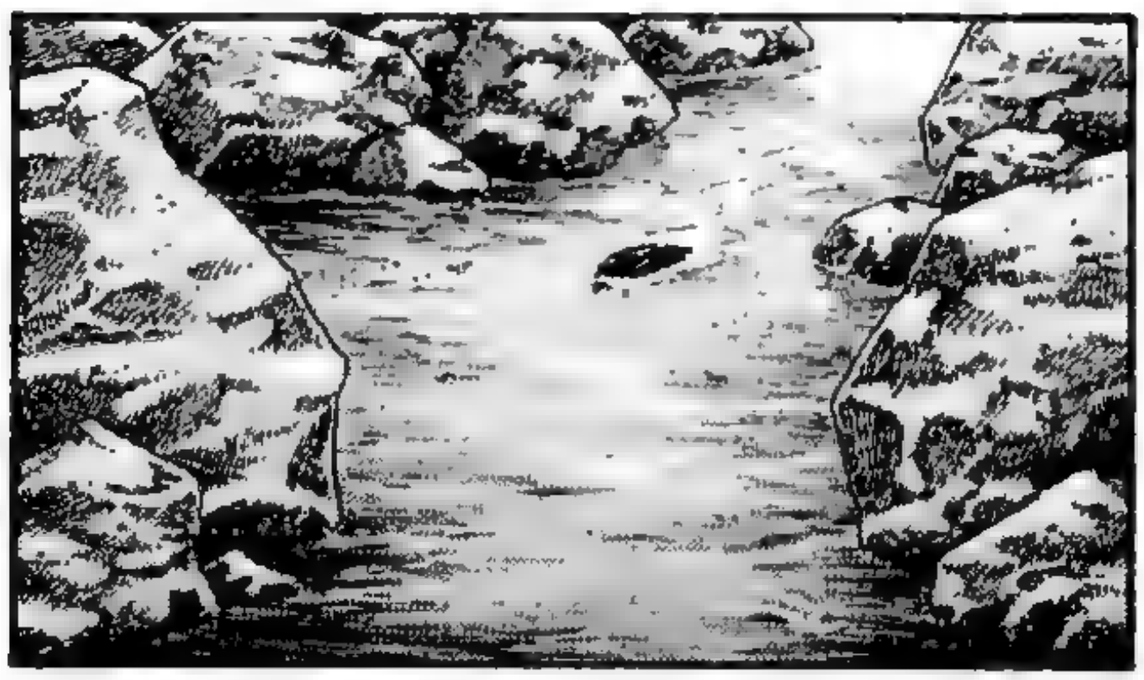
...



...FROM COVERING FOR MY RIGHT LEG...

ACHE IN MY LEFT SIDE...

IT'S USELESS.
ALL THIS EXCESS MOVEMENT...



I FEEL TORMENTED...

AND NOW I DON'T KNOW...

I'VE LOST SOMETHING...

I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYMORE...

...WHICH WAY THE SWORD SHOULD TAKE ME.

PLIP
PLIP
PUSH!
UNGH ...
UNNGGH
PLIP

WAHHH!

WAHHH

WAHHH

YOU DID IT!

HM...

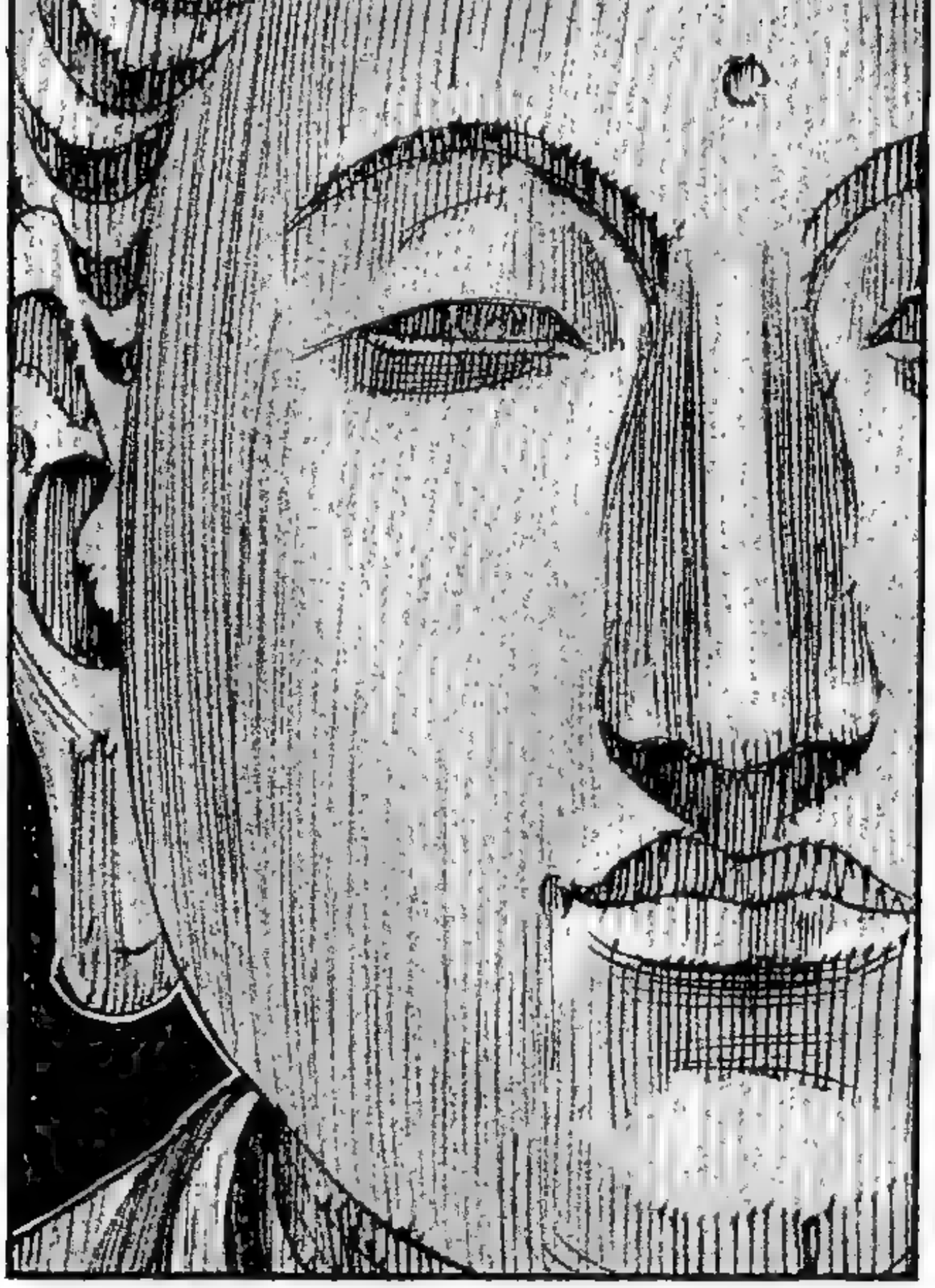
THE FACES ON YOUR STATUES ARE SOFTER SOMEHOW.

IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SAY...
SORRY ...

...

...

...NOW LOOKS ALIVE.
WHAT WAS ONCE JUST A PIECE OF WOOD...



AS IF IT CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME.

ONCE IT'S SOLD, PEOPLE WILL BE PRAYING AT IT EVERY DAY.
OF COURSE IT DOES.

THAT'S WHAT HE'S ABLE TO EXPRESS WITH HIS CHISEL.
AN EXISTENCE THAT GOES BEYOND THIS WORLD.

GRAB

OTHERS CREATE THINGS DEDICATED TO A WORLD BEYOND.

SOME PEOPLE FIGHT TO THE DEATH WITH SWORDS.

THEY SEEM TO BE POLAR OPPOSITES, BUT THEY'RE ONE AND THE SAME.

KLENCH

YOU HAVE TO BE MAD...

YOU HAVE A WIFE AND CHILDREN. HOW CAN YOU DO IT ALL?

OTHERWISE HOW COULD YOU DO IT?

I'M MIYAMOTO MUSASHI...

BUT WHEN I'M SCULPTING, I FEEL I'M HIGH IN THE SKY...

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I'M MAD OR NOT...

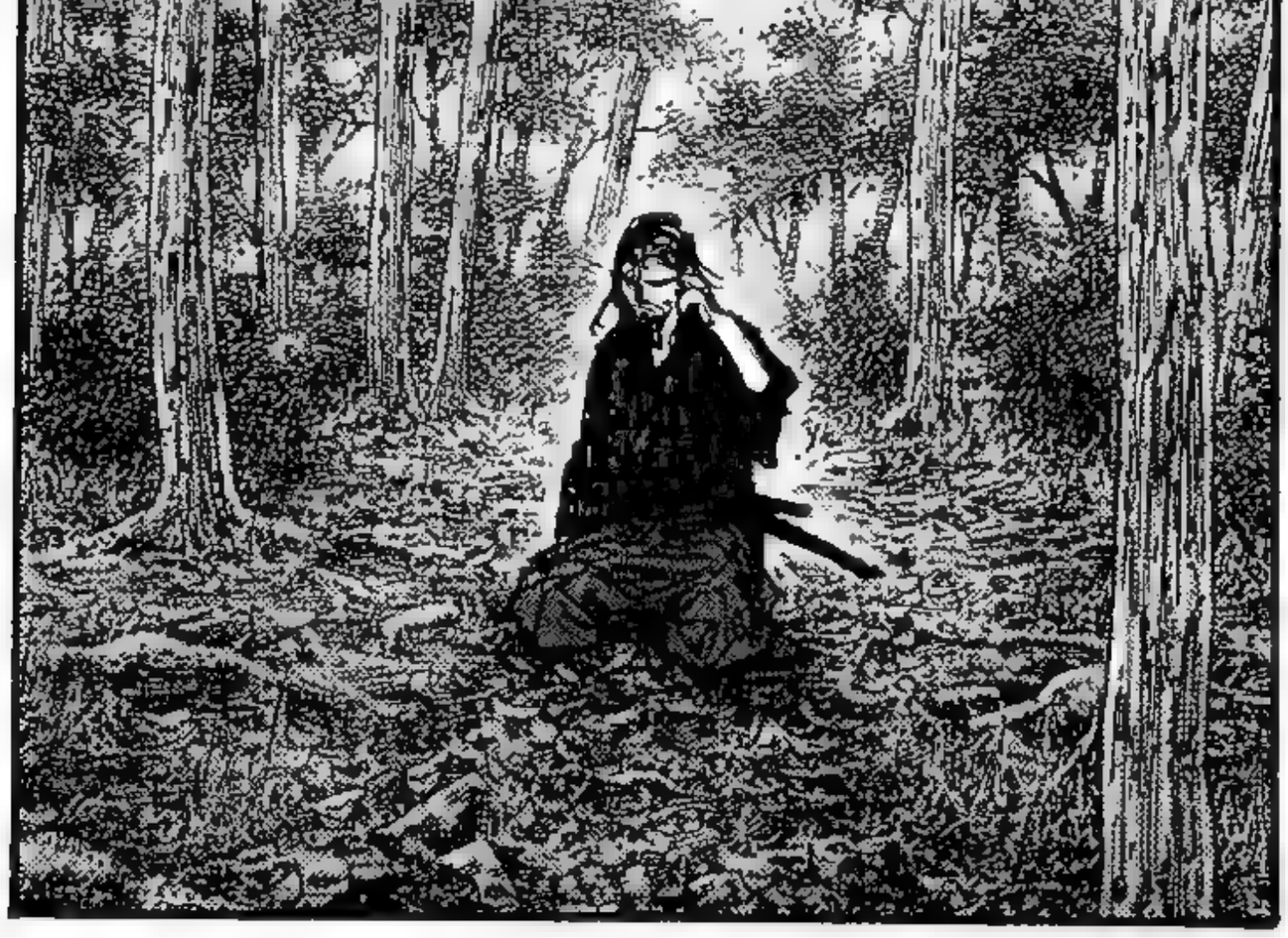
OR MAYBE I'M DOWN IN THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH...

AS IF I'VE GONE TO A PLACE FAR AWAY.

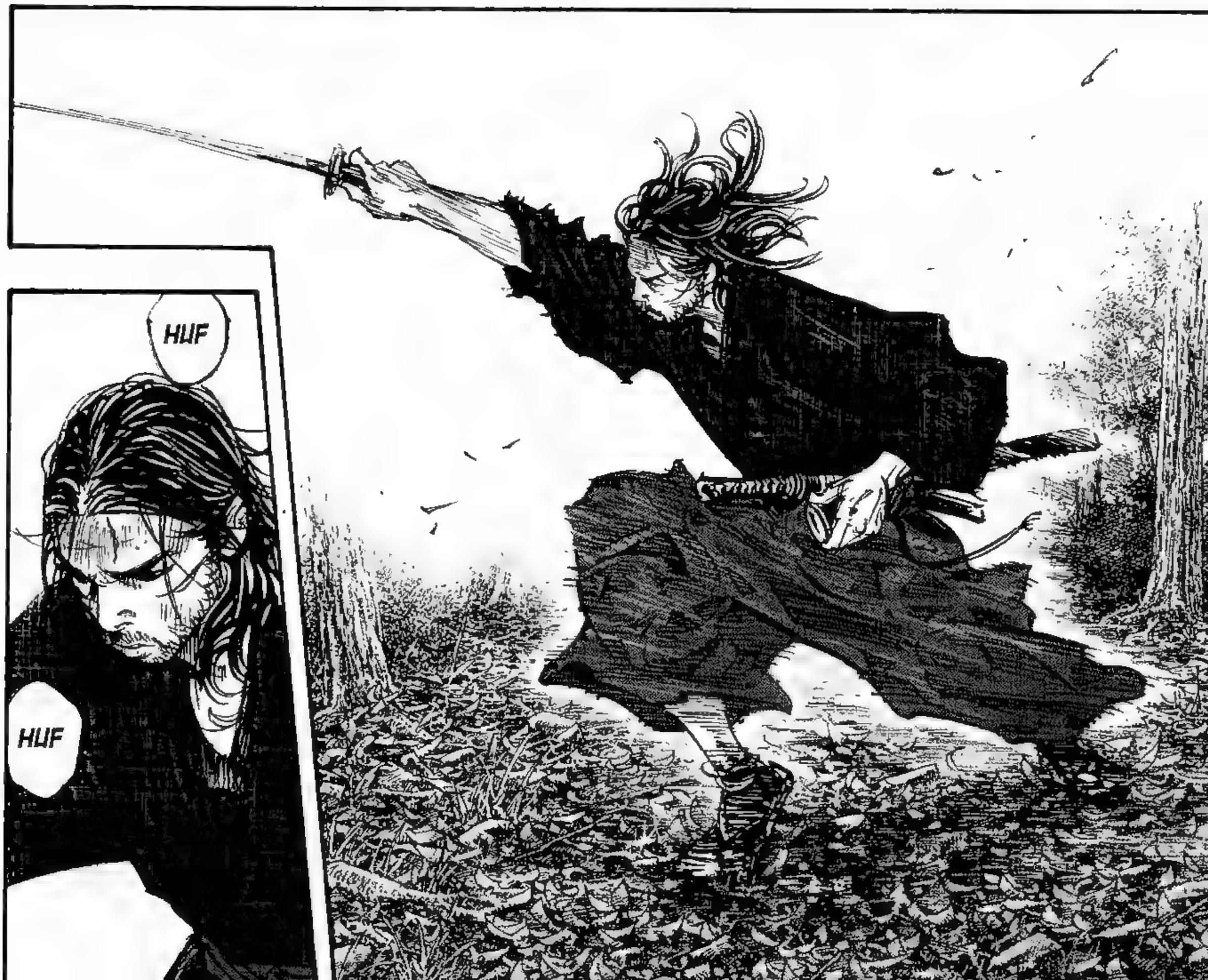
CUTTING EACH OTHER DOWN WITH SWORDS... SO YOU'RE ONE OF *THEM*...

BUT THEY'RE ALL CIRCLES TO THE SAME CENTER.

AND THAT CENTER IS WHERE I'LL ALWAYS RETURN.



SKRCH
SKRCH


HUF
HUF

SOME KIND OF MIST CLINGING TO ME...

WHAT IS IT?

AM I STILL STRONG?

SECOND SON,
JIRO

#294 Give It Up

HEY!

HERE, TAKEZŌ.
HUH?
UH, WAIT.

...

YOU WERE ONCE A BABY TOO. SOMEONE HAD TO HOLD YOU JUST LIKE THAT.

?
I HAVE A NIECE THAT'S OF AGE.
SHE'S QUITE A BEAUTY! JUST LIKE ME!
AND ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, YOUR FACE ISN'T SO BAD EITHER.

TAKEZŌ, PERHAPS YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED?

...

...

NO...
UH, NO THANKS.
IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE?

THAT LIFE IS NOT FOR ME.
IT CANNOT BE.
YOU SEE...

THESE HANDS HAVE KILLED OVER A HUNDRED MEN.

...MIYAMOTO MUSASHI WOULD BE AN ARROGANT, PROUD MAN.

YOU TOOK DOWN THE ENTIRE YOSHIOKA SCHOOL AFTER ALL.

I WOULD'VE THOUGHT...

TAKEZŌ...

UH, I MEAN MUSASHI...

YOU'RE MORE LIKE A GUILT-RIDDEN CRIMINAL.

BUT YOU'RE FAR FROM ACTING THE PROUD WARRIOR...

THAT ONE HAD A YOUNGER BROTHER.

THIS ONE HAD AN OLDER BROTHER.

WHAT ABOUT HIM?
HE MUST'VE HAD PARENTS. EVERYONE DOES.

HE MAY HAVE HAD YOUNG ONES OF HIS OWN.
AND THAT ONE...

HE MIGHT HAVE HAD CHILDREN.

MUST YOU LEAVE US?

YOU'VE SHOWN ME GREAT KINDNESS...

I WILL NOT FORGET.

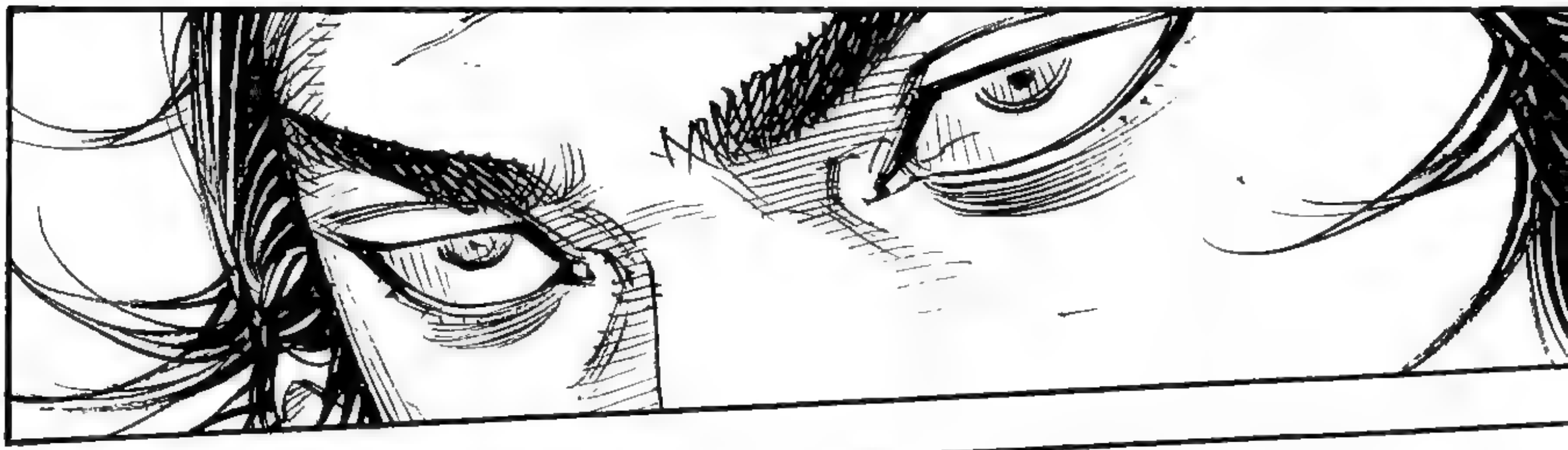
TAKEZŌ...

PLEASE...

...TAKE CARE.

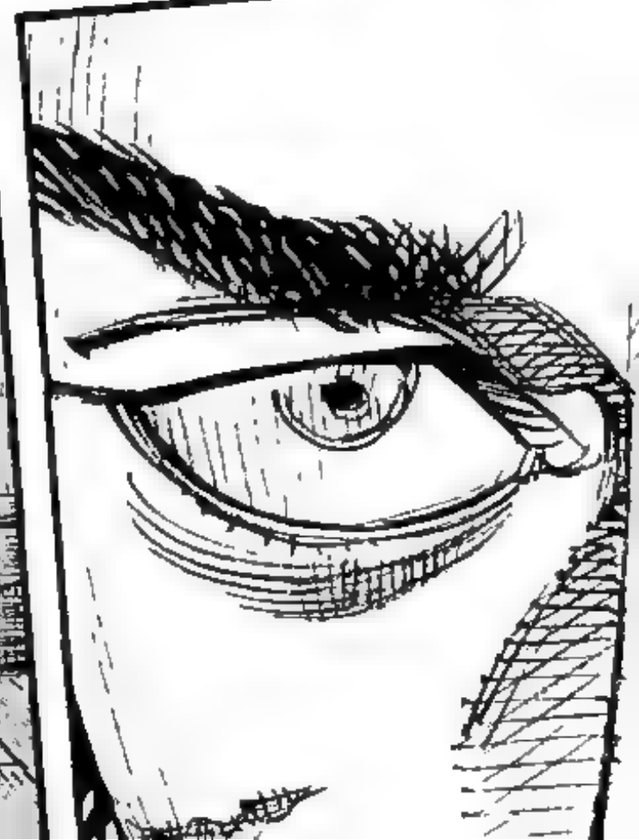
FICH

FICH
FICH



AM I STILL STRONG?

WHY CONTINUE ?
IF YOU MUST BE MAD TO DO THIS...



I'LL TRAIN YOU TO BE A SCULPTOR.
YOU HAVE TALENT.
I'M GETTING TOO BUSY TO DO ALL THE WORK MYSELF.

WHY CAN'T YOU JUST STOP?

MUST YOU LEAVE?

...TO FIGHT SOMEONE TRULY STRONG.
I WANT ONE MORE CHANCE...

I WANT TO SEE WHAT THOSE OLD MEN SAW.
I'LL FIND THE ANSWER THAT I'M NO LONGER ABLE TO SEE...
I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF IT...

OTHERWISE...

FOR BOTH MY FATHER AND I...

THE LIVES WE LIVED WOULD'VE BEEN IN VAIN.

FATHER AND SON...

TWO GENERA-TIONS...

WAS HE MAD?

HOW ABOUT YOUR FATHER?

...

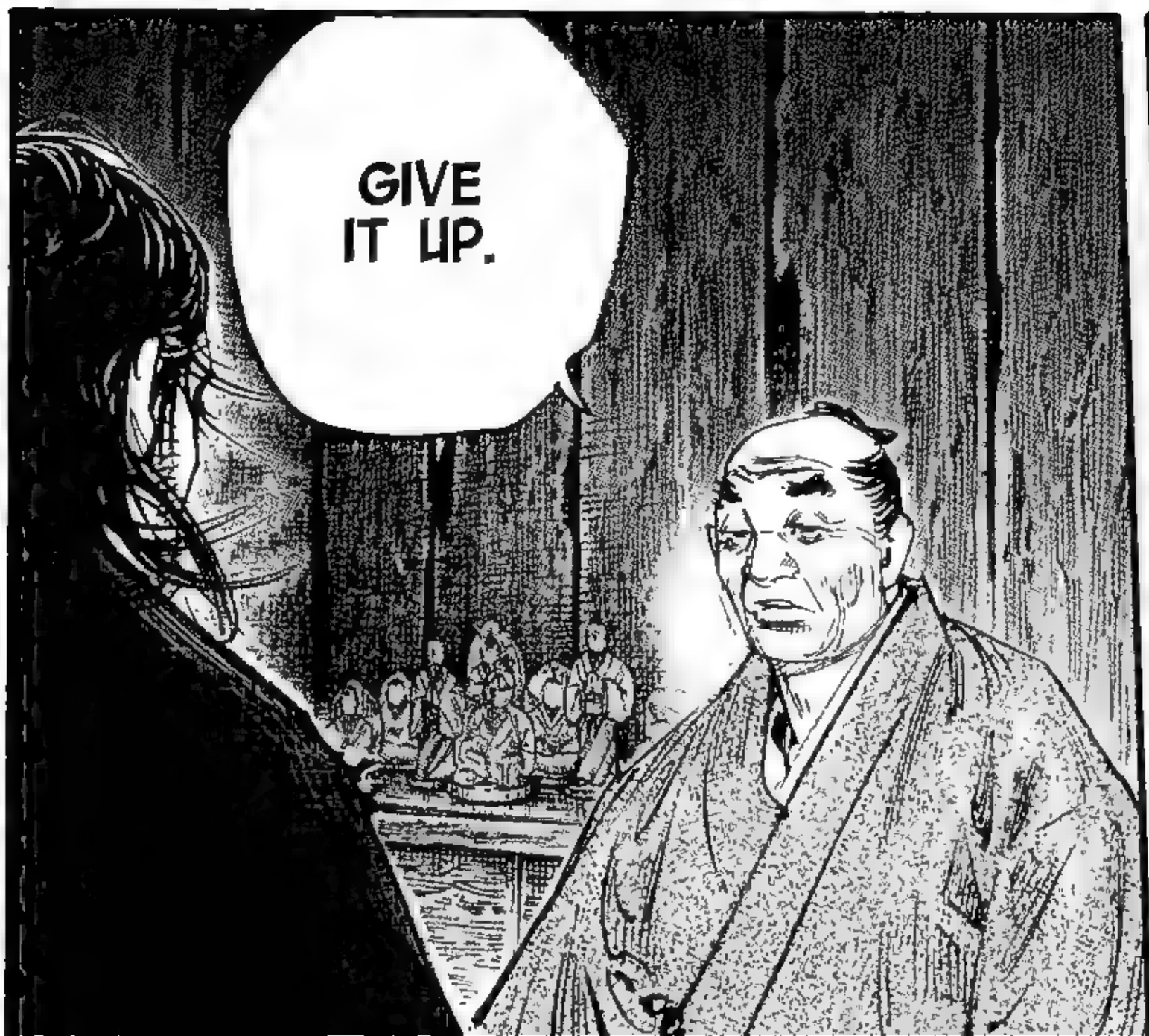
DID THAT NOT MAKE HIM HAPPY?

AND HE HAD YOU, HIS SON.

HE HAD A WIFE...

!

...


GIVE IT UP.

...

IF YOU GIVE IT UP...
HM?
...THE FIGHTING WILL STOP.

GIVE UP THE SWORD.

FICH

FICH

FICH

SHUF

SHUF

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO GRUMPY?

WHY BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF?

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T SEE...

YOU LOOK AFTER THE KIDS.

THE KIDS LOOK UP TO YOU LIKE A BIG BROTHER.

DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOUR-SELF.

...

YOU WORK HARD.

...HOW KIND YOU REALLY ARE.
TAKEZŌ!
WAIT!
DON'T GO!
TAKEZŌ!
HUF HUF

OKAY?

PROMISE YOU'LL COME BACK!

PROMISE ME!

PROMISE YOU'LL COME BACK AND TEACH ME HOW TO FIGHT.

TAKEZŌ ...

FICH
SHUF
FICH

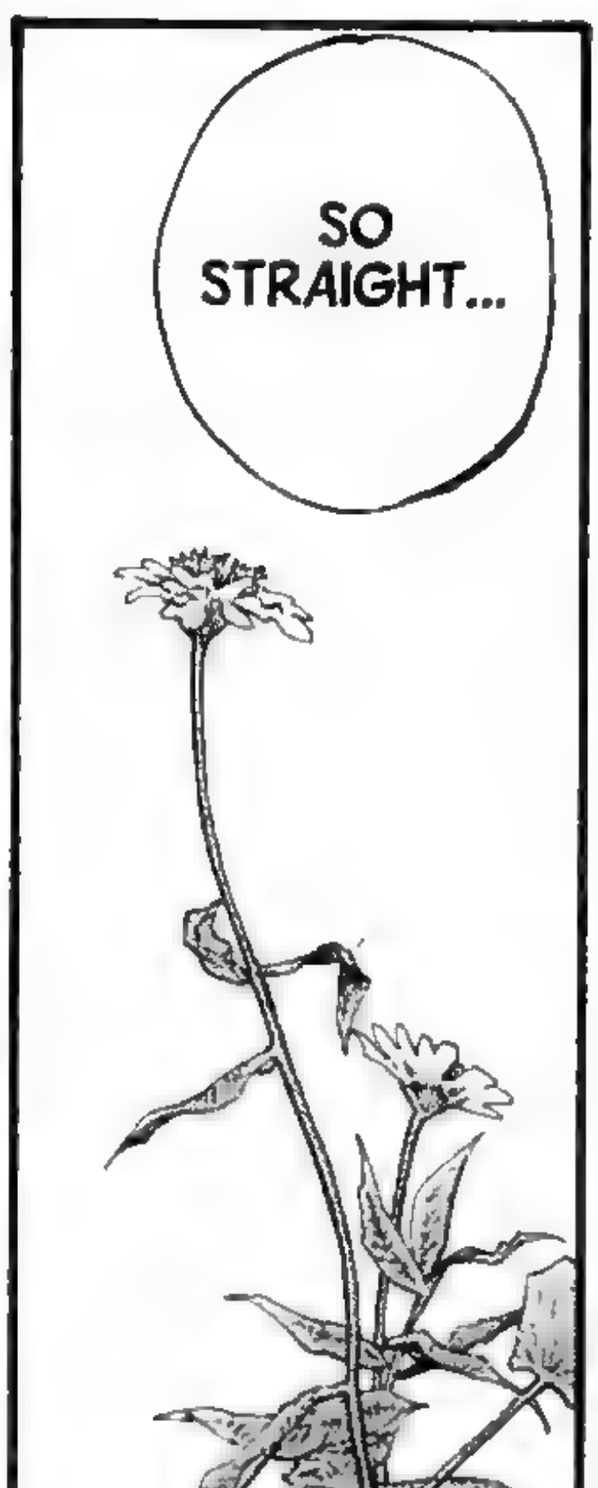
I THOUGHT MY DAYS OF WANDERING WERE OVER.

ENOUGH!

...
SO WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
AND ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, YOUR FACE ISN'T SO BAD...
COME ON.

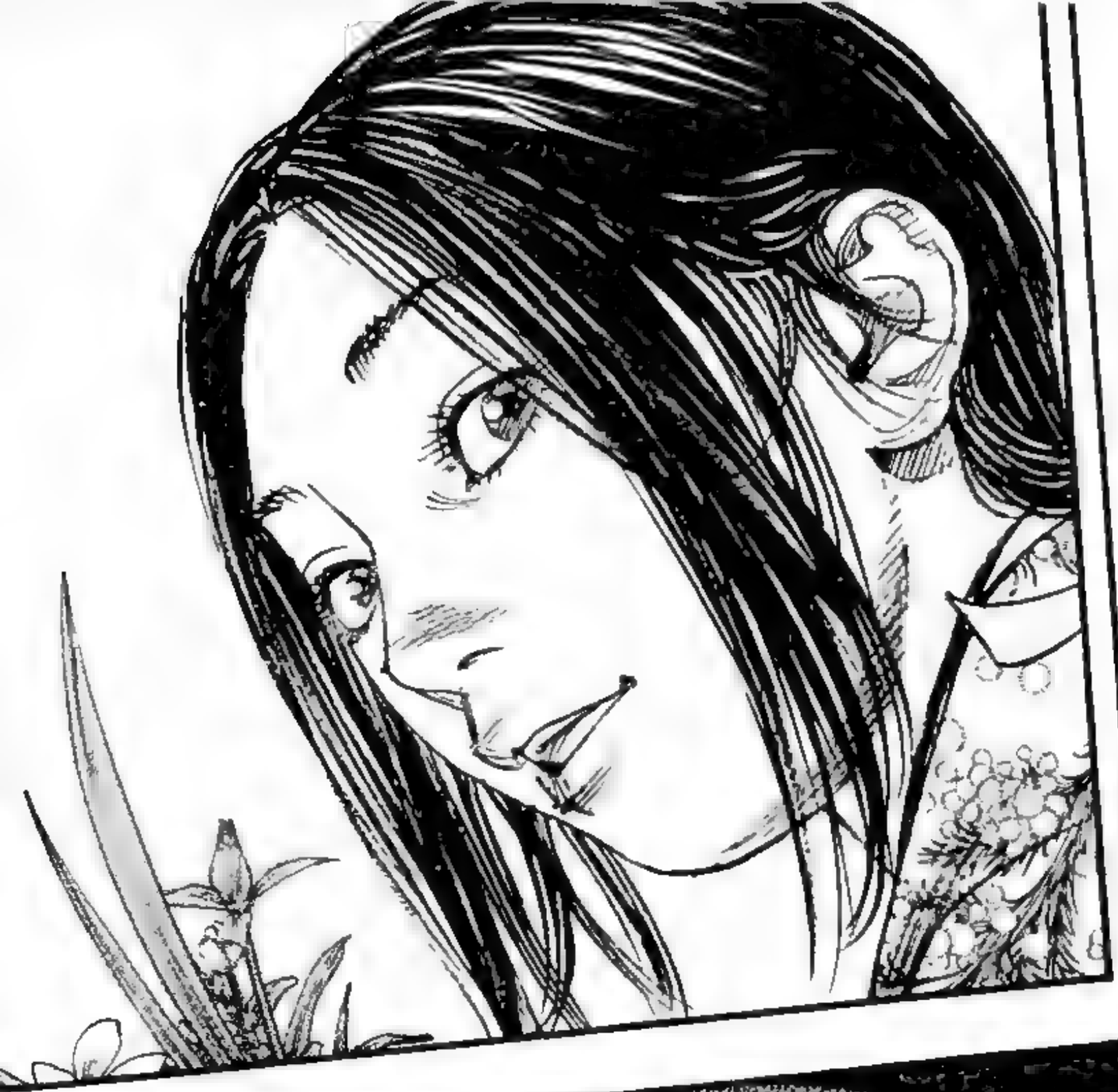
...
SHE'S A HARD WORKER ...

...NOT A CROOKED BONE IN HER BODY.


SO STRAIGHT...

WHAT?
HUH?

SINCERE.



NOT AT ALL. SHE'S PLAYFUL.
BUT SHE'S NOT UPTIGHT.

...

HEH HEH...

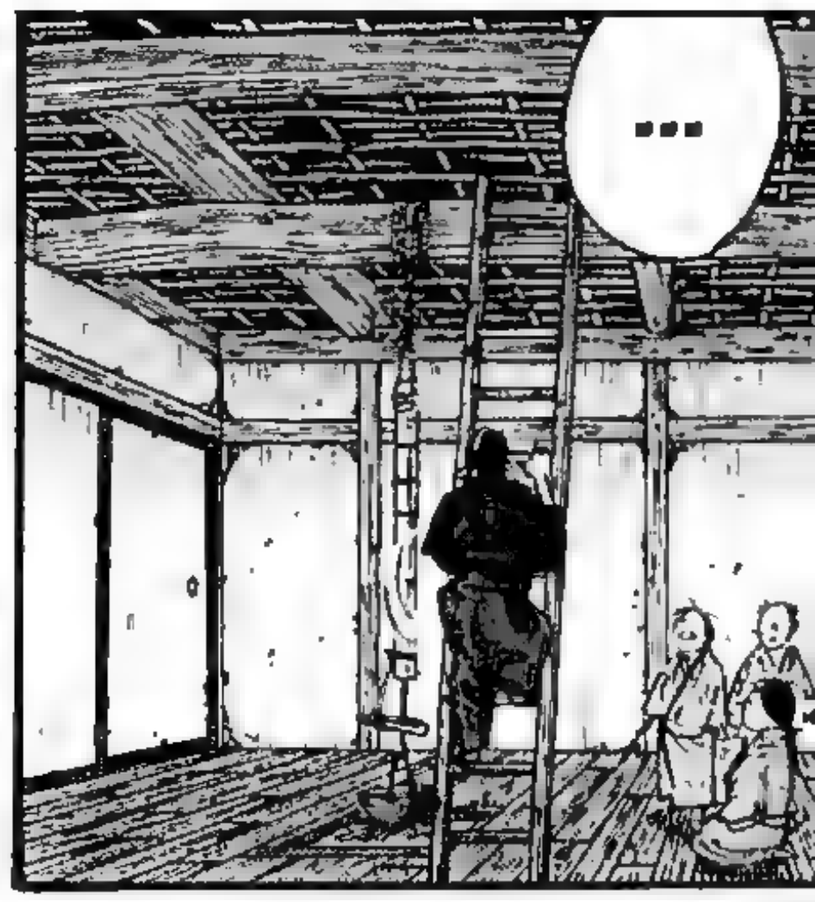
ALWAYS CLOWNING AROUND.

IS THAT BIG LUG EMBAR-RASSED?

...

...
HEY!
COME ON DOWN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TAP


...

SHE'S SO KIND...
AND...

SO KIND...
THINKS MORE ABOUT THE HAPPINESS OF OTHERS THAN HER OWN.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I WISHED...

...I COULD BE LIKE YOU, OTSŪ.

FICH

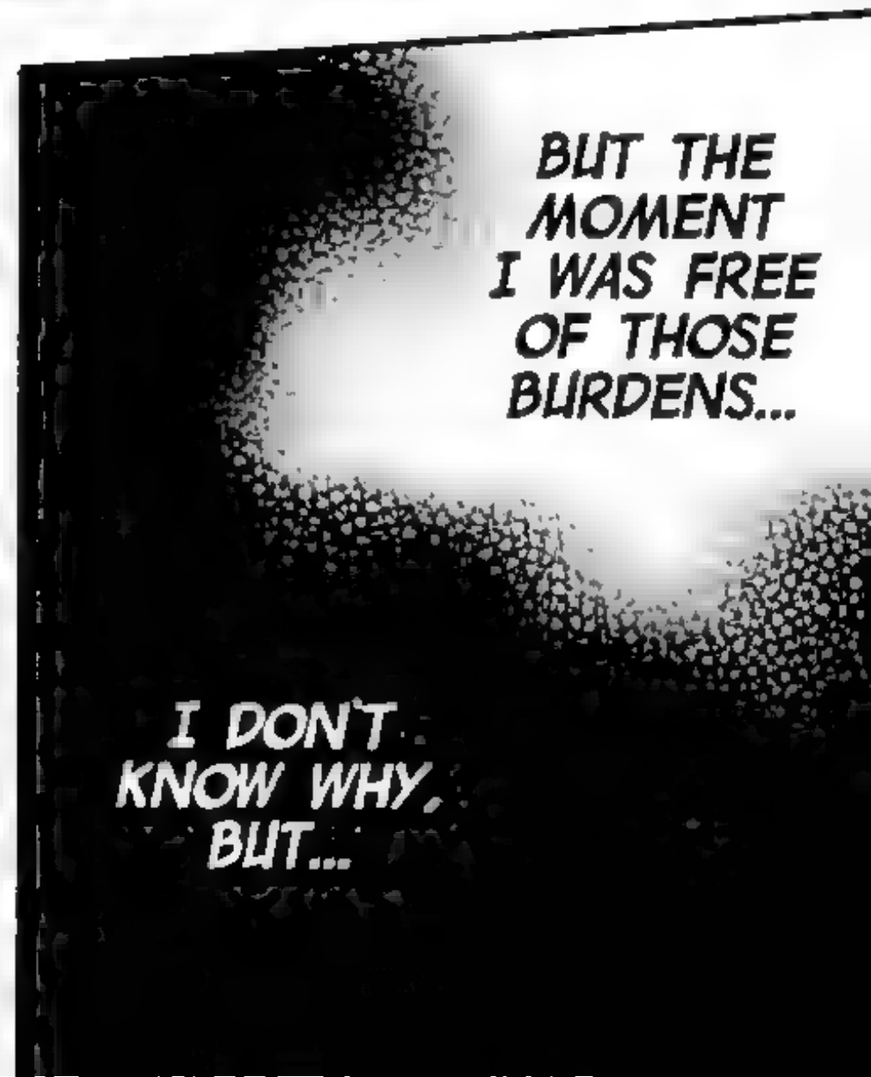
SHUF

FICH

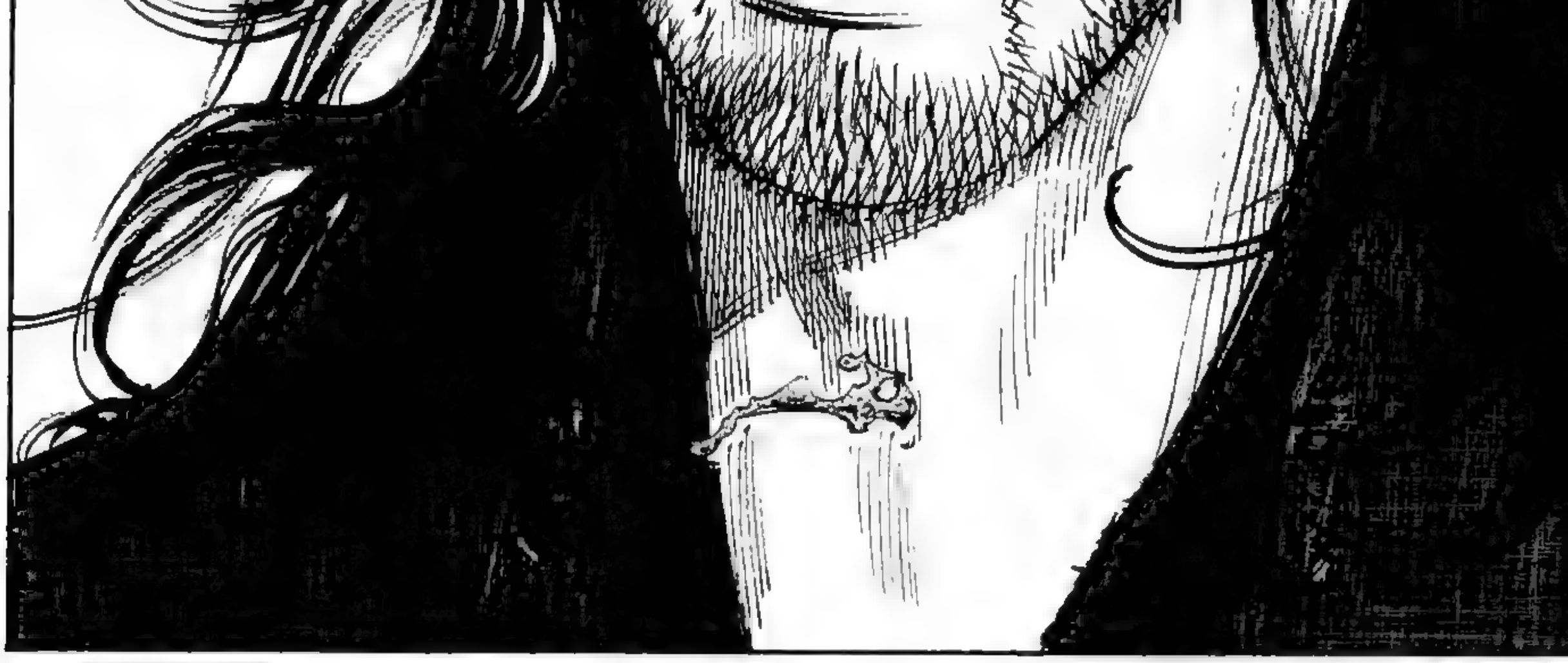
FICH

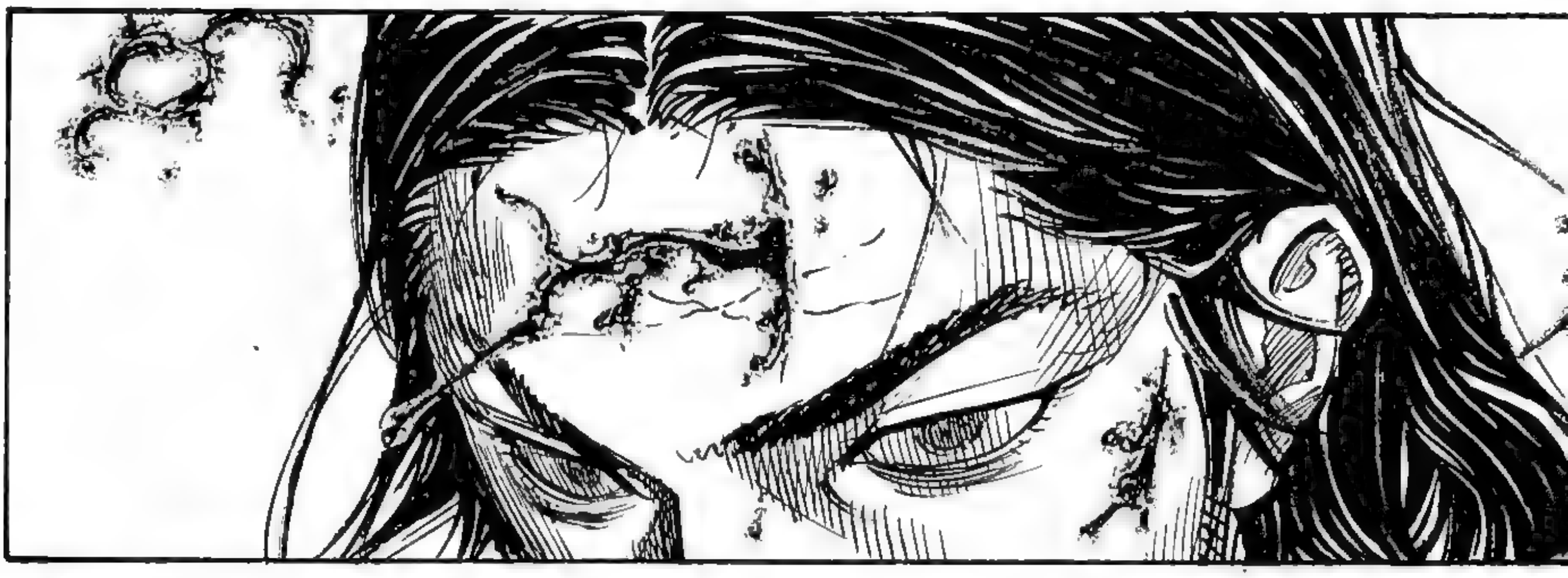
SHUF

FICH



NOW I FEEL...
...CUT OFF.
EVEN THE TREES SEEM TO BE IGNORING ME.





SOMEONE COME ATTACK ME!

I'M STILL STRONG.

MUSASHI!

IS THAT YOU?
MIYAMOTO MUSASHI...

I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME!!
FICH

WHO?

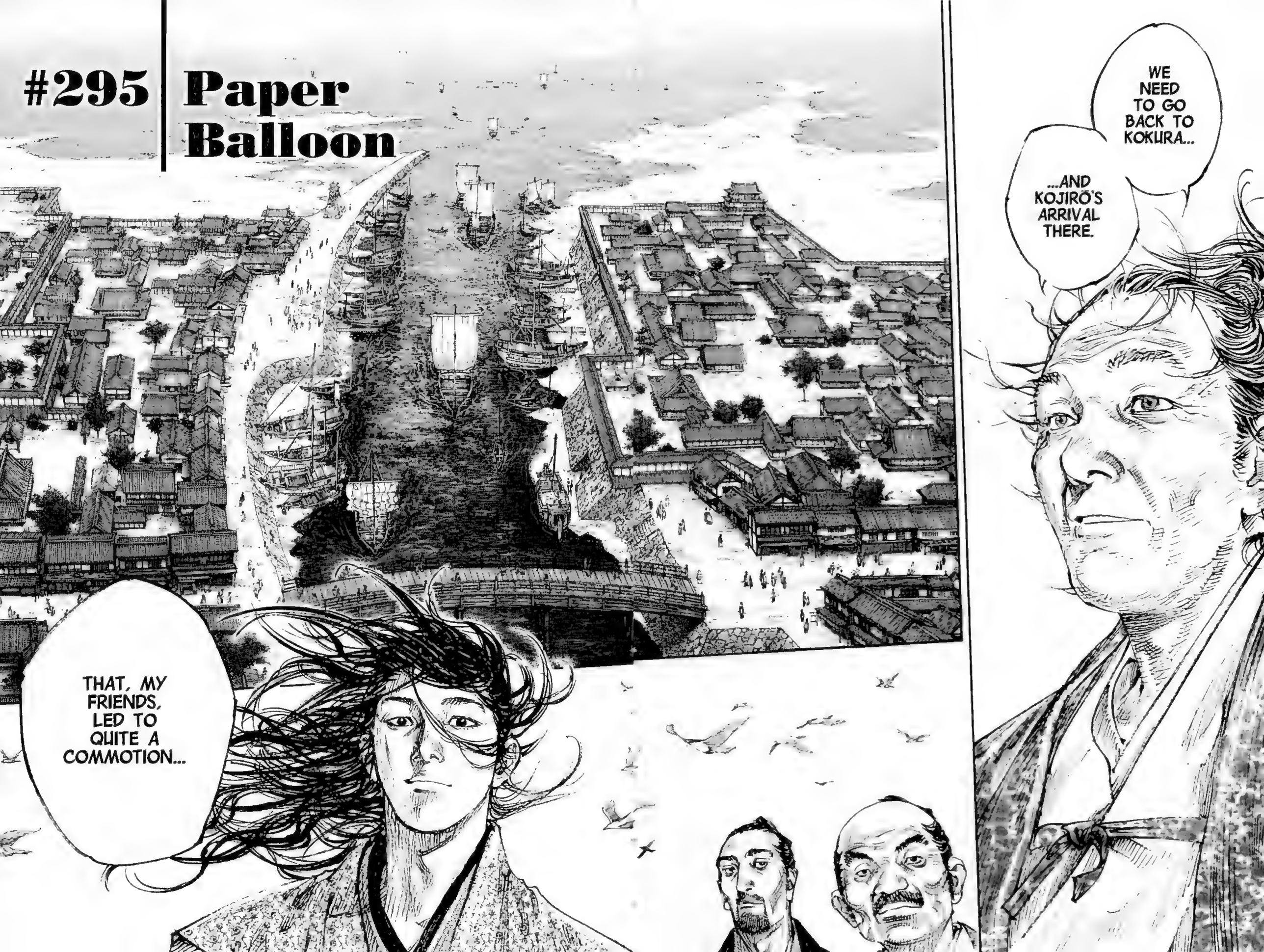
CHIRRP
CHIRRP

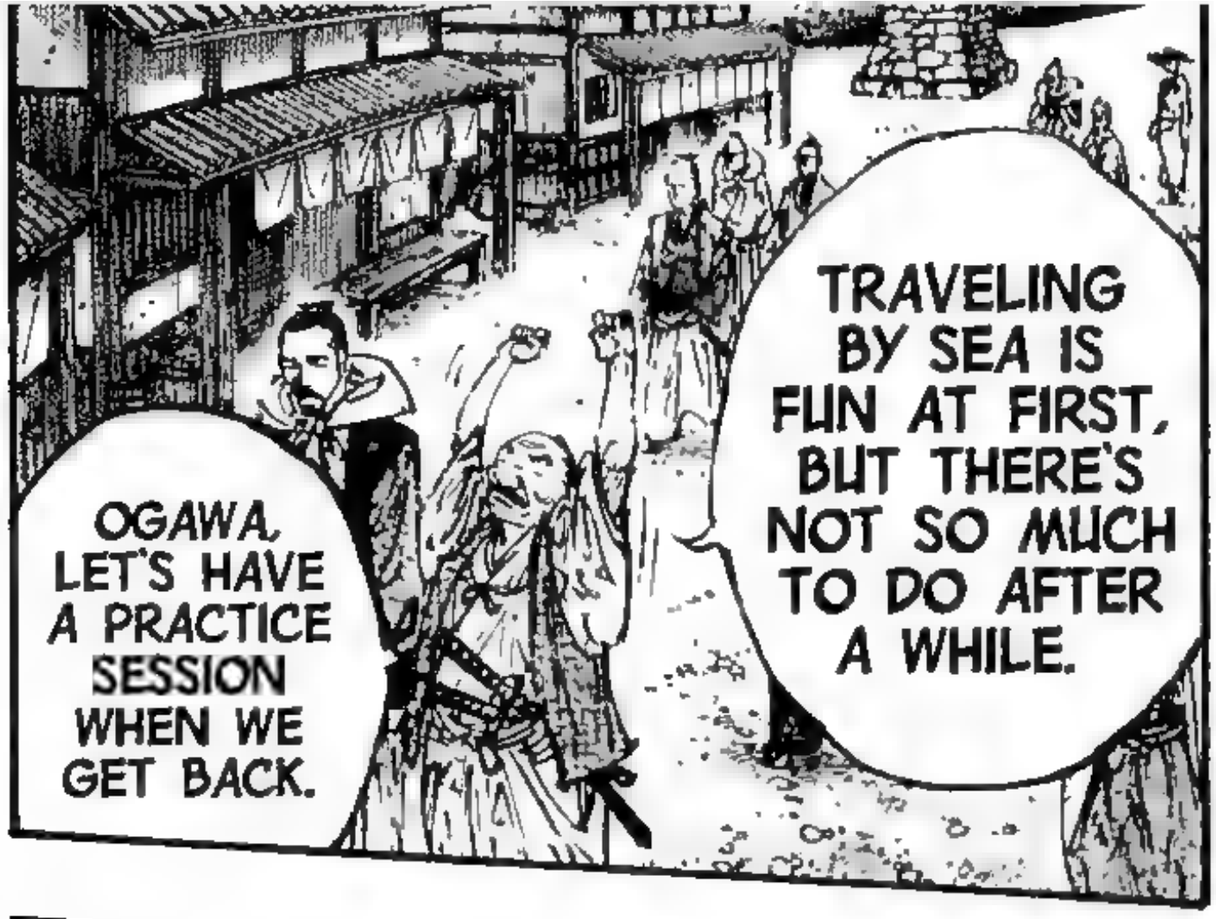
MUSASHI BEGINS ANOTHER JOURNEY ONLY TO BE INTERRUPTED BY THIS MYSTERIOUS MAN...
GULP
WAS HE FRIEND OR FOE? OR PERHAPS EVEN--?!

NOW, NOW...
THERE'S A PROPER ORDER TO THIS STORY, SEE?

WHAT ?!
HEY!
NO!
WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT TIME.

#295 Paper Balloon




OGAWA, LET'S HAVE A PRACTICE SESSION WHEN WE GET BACK.
TRAVELING BY SEA IS FUN AT FIRST, BUT THERE'S NOT SO MUCH TO DO AFTER A WHILE.

WE'VE FINALLY ARRIVED...
MY BODY FEELS TIGHT.

KOJIRŌ SEEMED TO BE ENJOYING HIMSELF THE ENTIRE VOYAGE.
HE MUST HAVE AN AFFINITY FOR THE SEA.

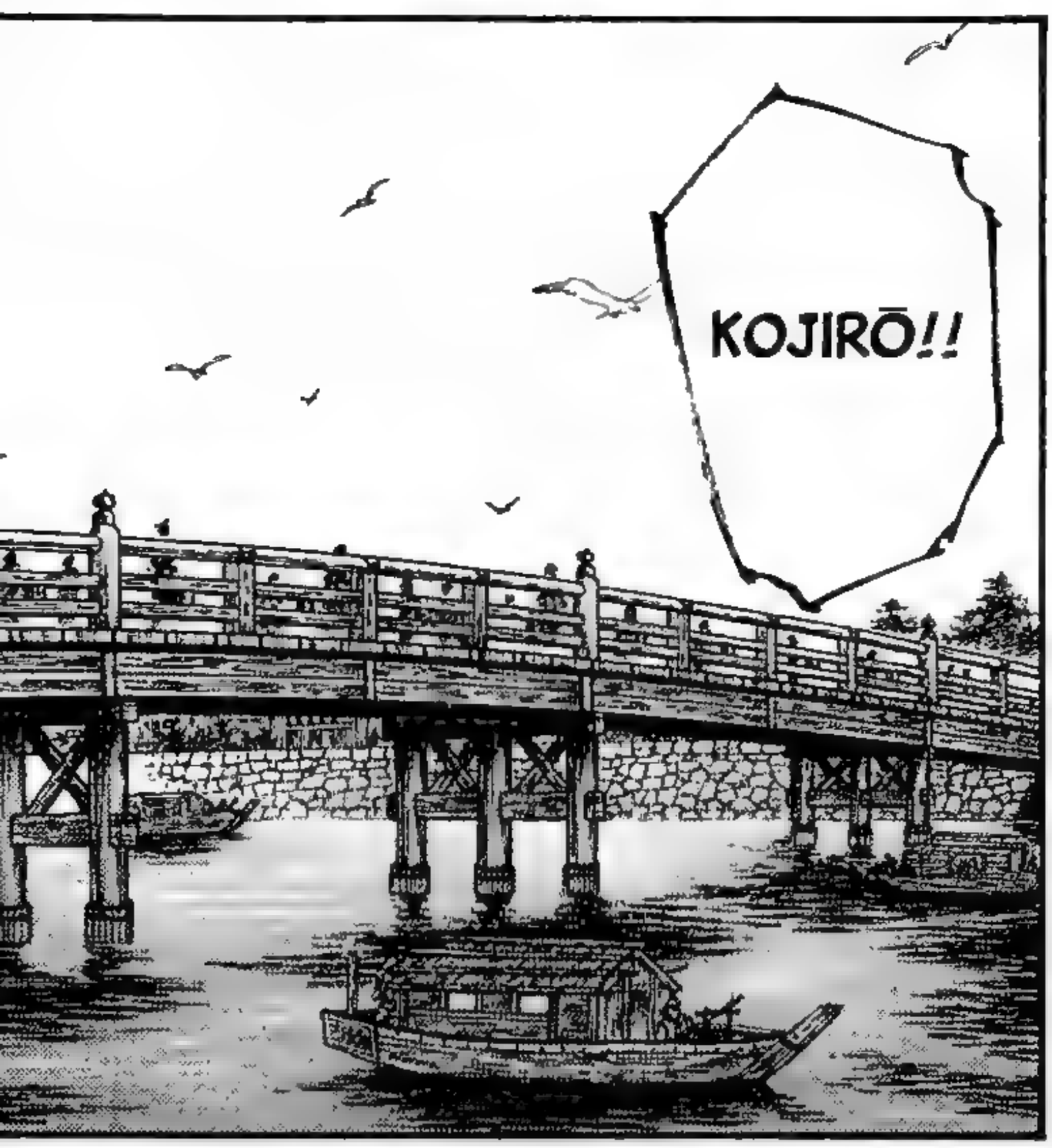
HIS BRILLIANCE WITH THE SWORD WILL GIVE YOU THE CHILLS...
YET MOST OF THE TIME HE ACTS FIVE YEARS OLD.

SOME FIND HIM LOVEABLE ...
A BLANK SLATE.
OTHERS ARE TERRIFIED OF HIM.

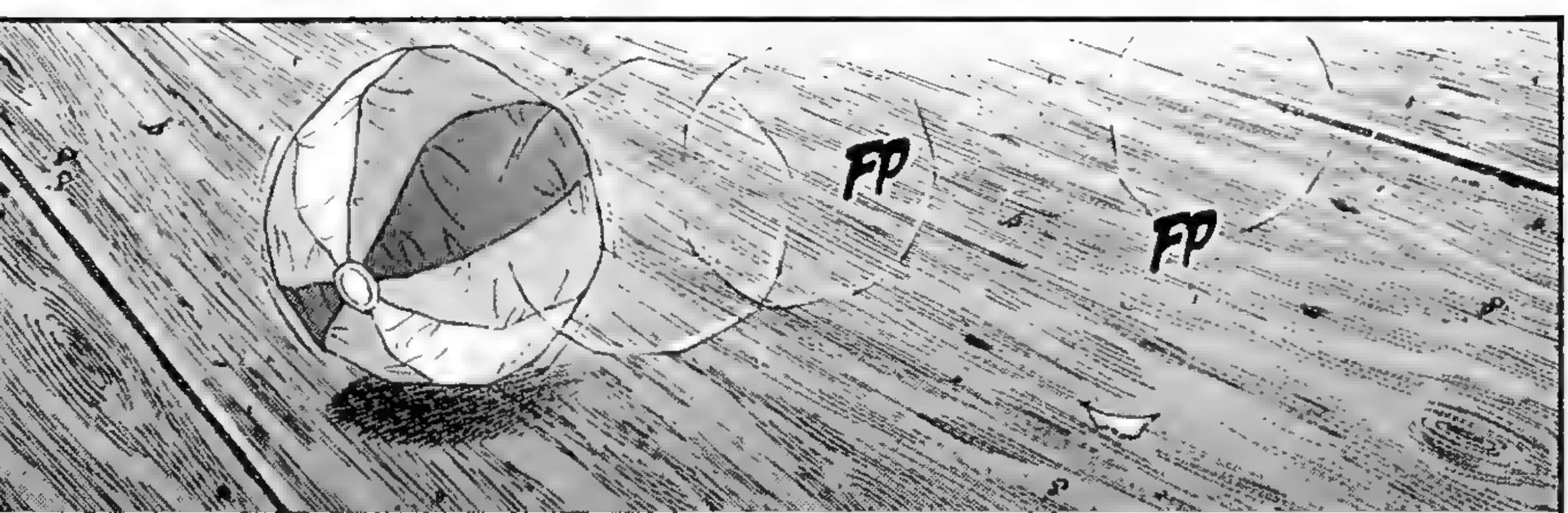
HM...
SAY, WHERE'D HE GO?
HE WAS HERE A MOMENT AGO.

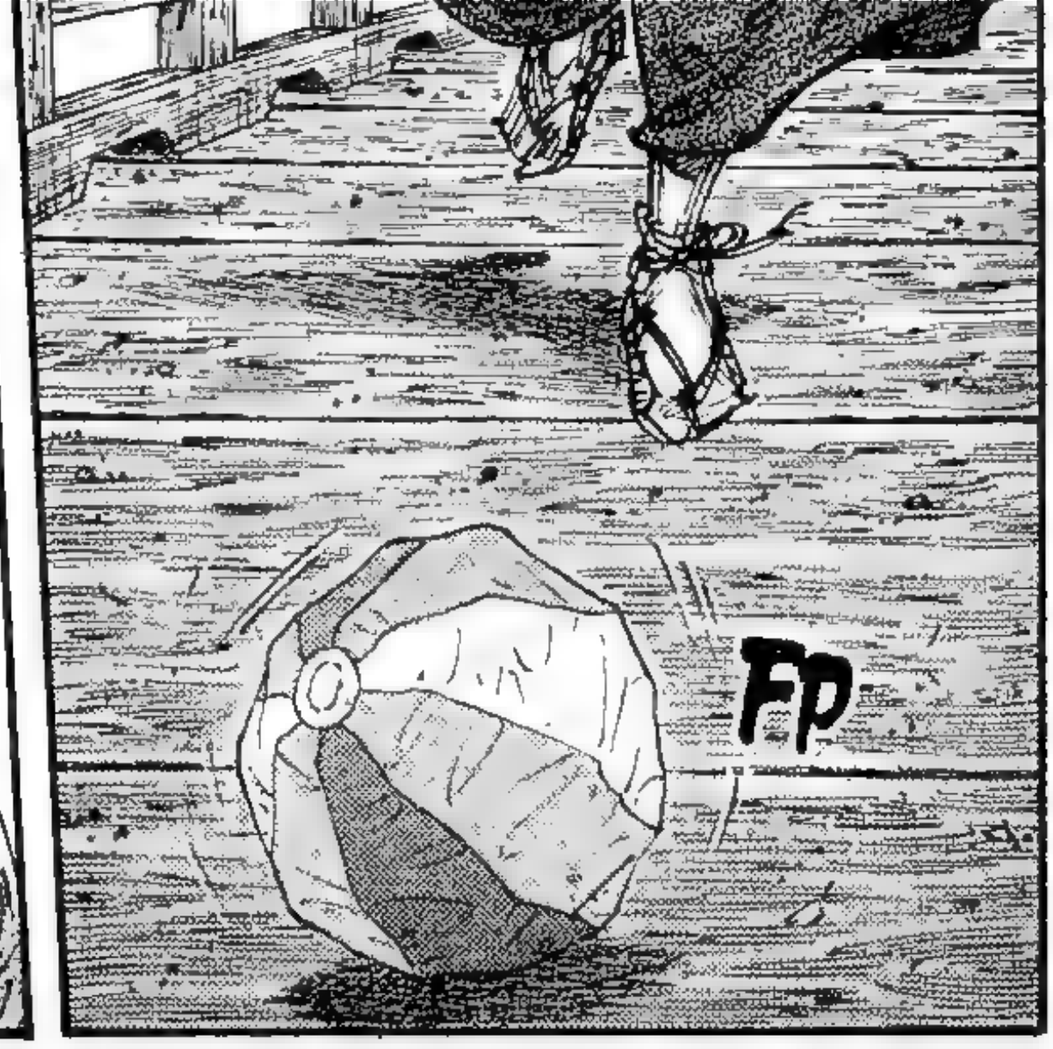
KOJIRŌ...

...?

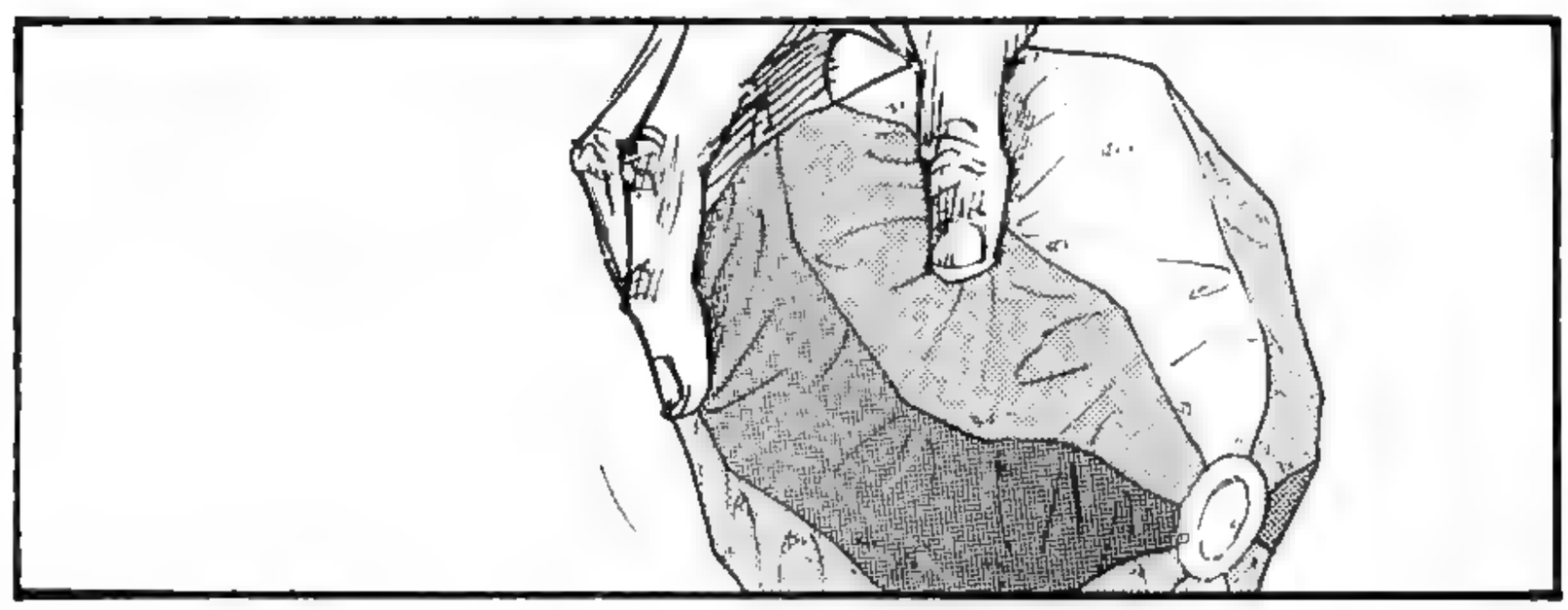

KOJIRŌ!!

OH, WHAT'S THE USE? HE CAN'T HEAR.
KOJIRŌ!


FP
FP


Fp

IT'S SO WINDY.
THIS ISN'T SPRINGTIME WEATHER.



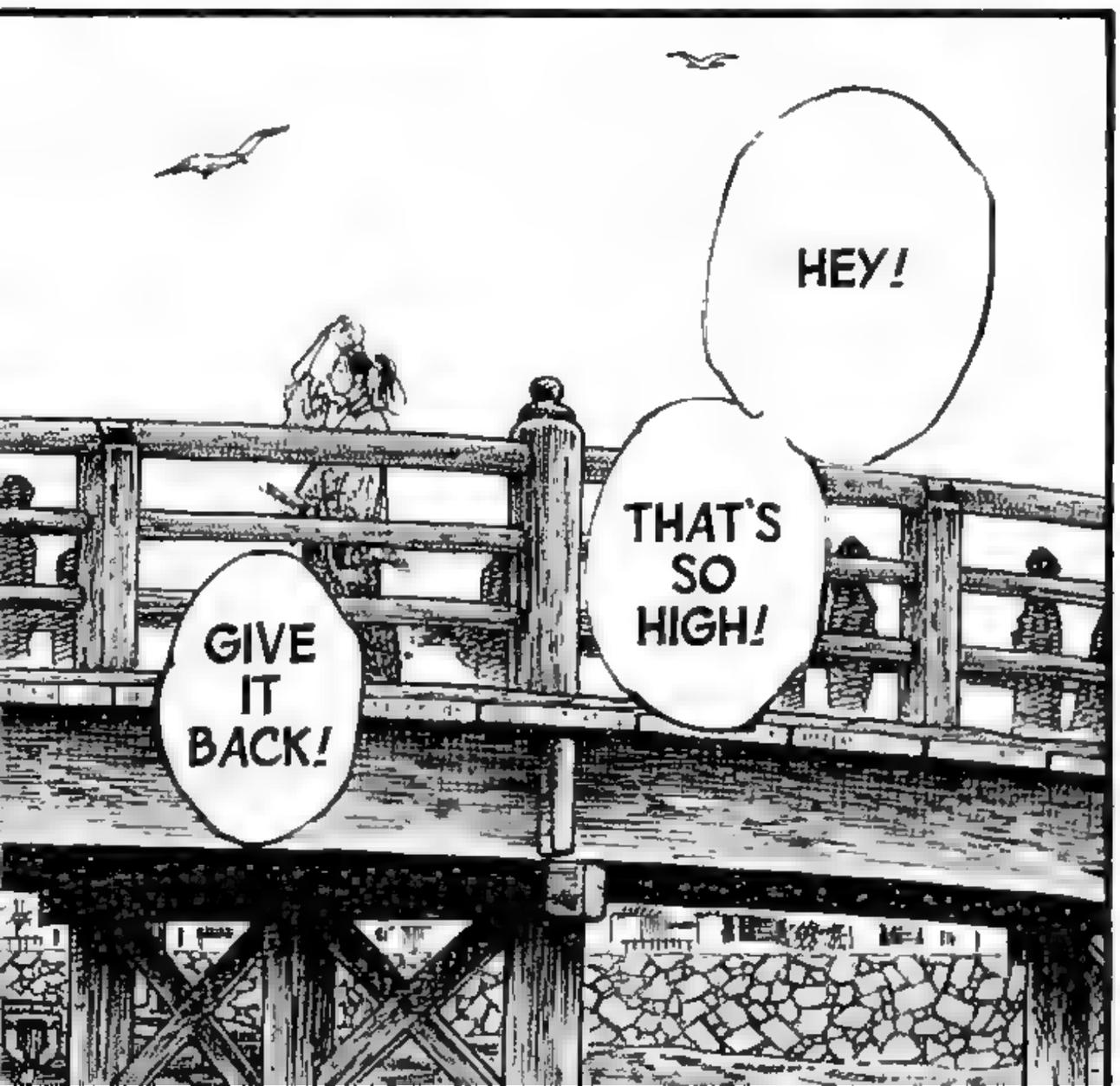
Tp
Tp
Tp

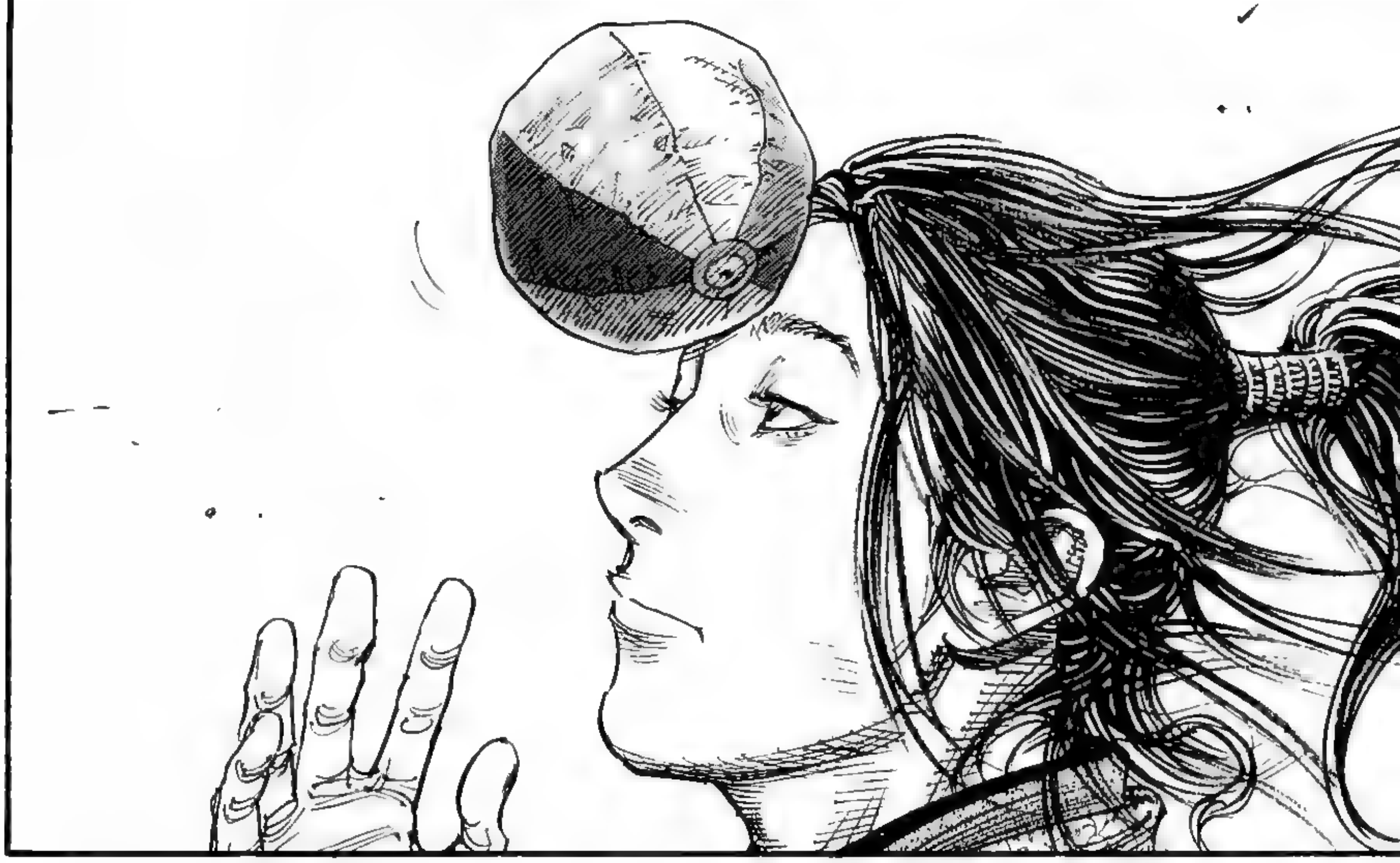
FIP

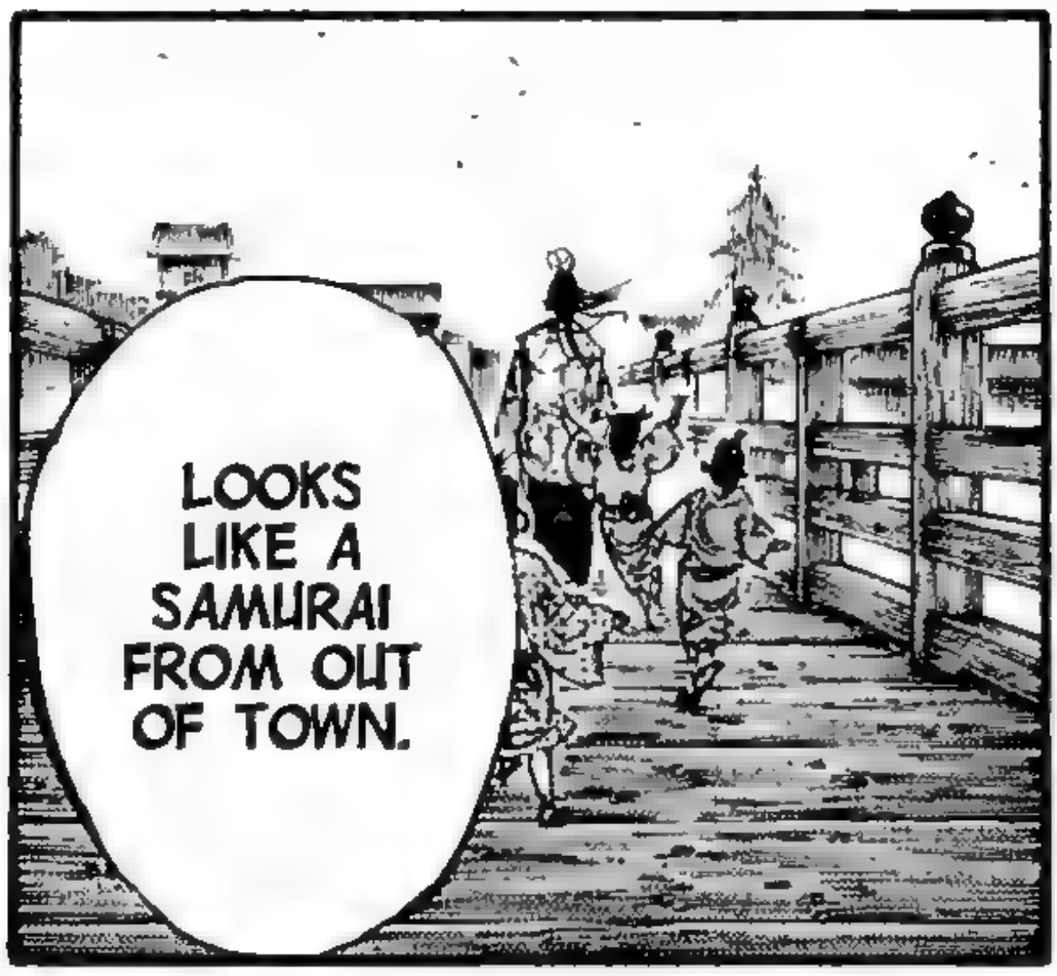
HA
HA
HA

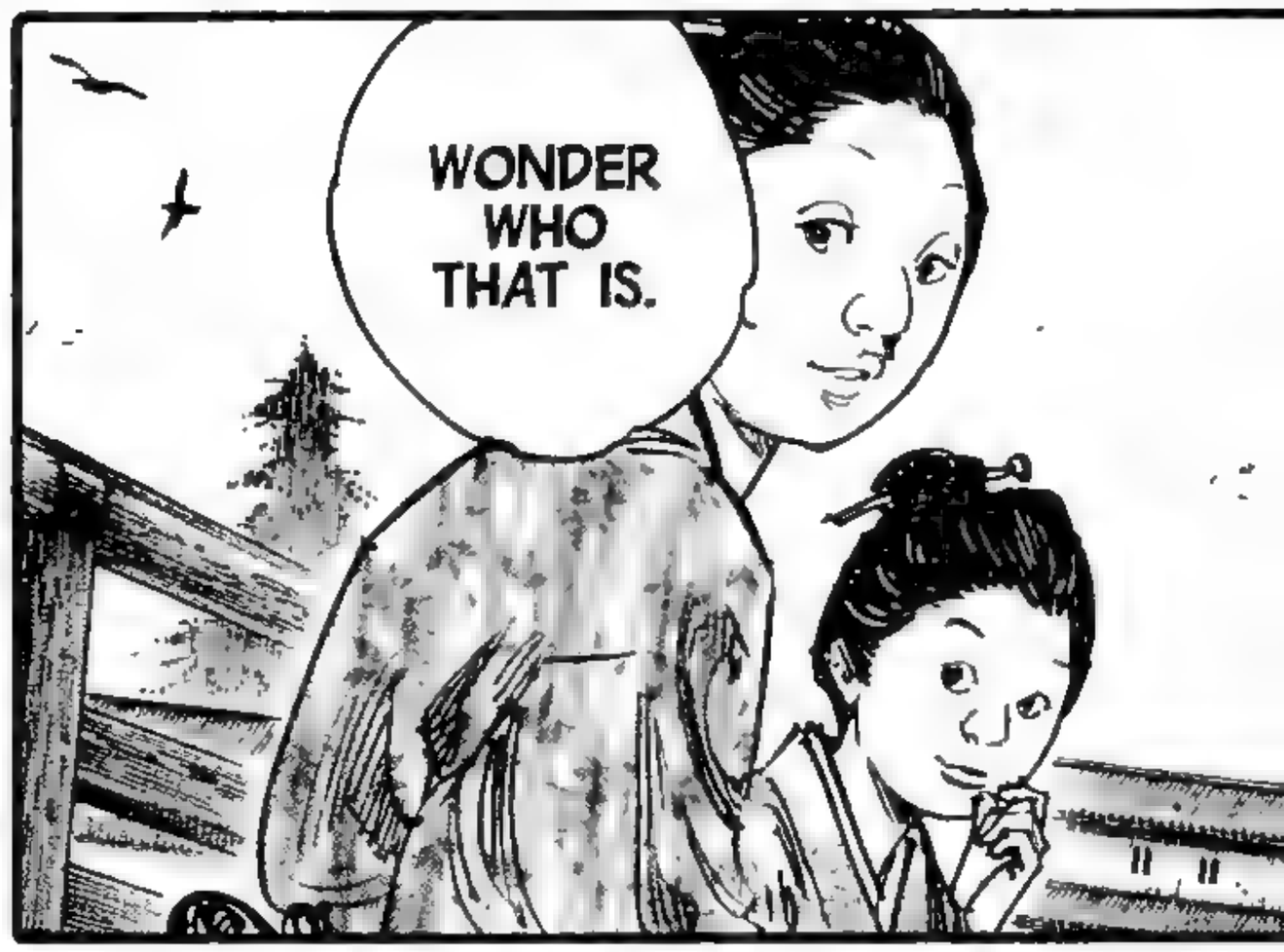
THANKS. HEY!
GIVE IT BACK!

HYUUU


HEY!
THAT'S SO HIGH!
GIVE IT BACK!




LOOKS LIKE A SAMURAI FROM OUT OF TOWN.


WONDER WHO THAT IS.

FWSHH

A NICE WIND...

ВИМР
НИН?!
YOU JUST BUMPED INTO ME! HOW ABOUT AN APOLOGY!
YOU MUST NOT BE FROM AROUND HERE.
PAT PAT

TP

FAP

...

GRR

HUH!

CHTTR

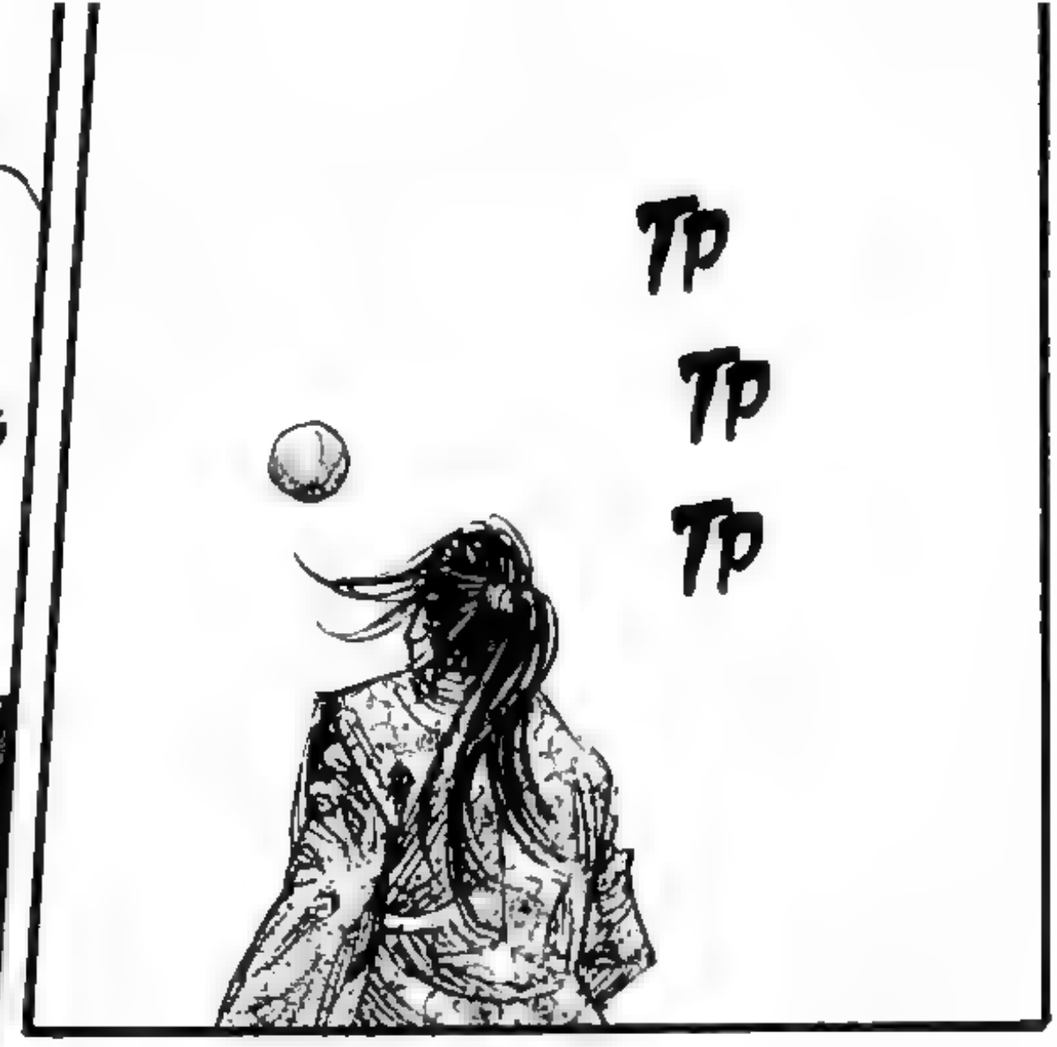
CHTTR

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

HEY YOU!!

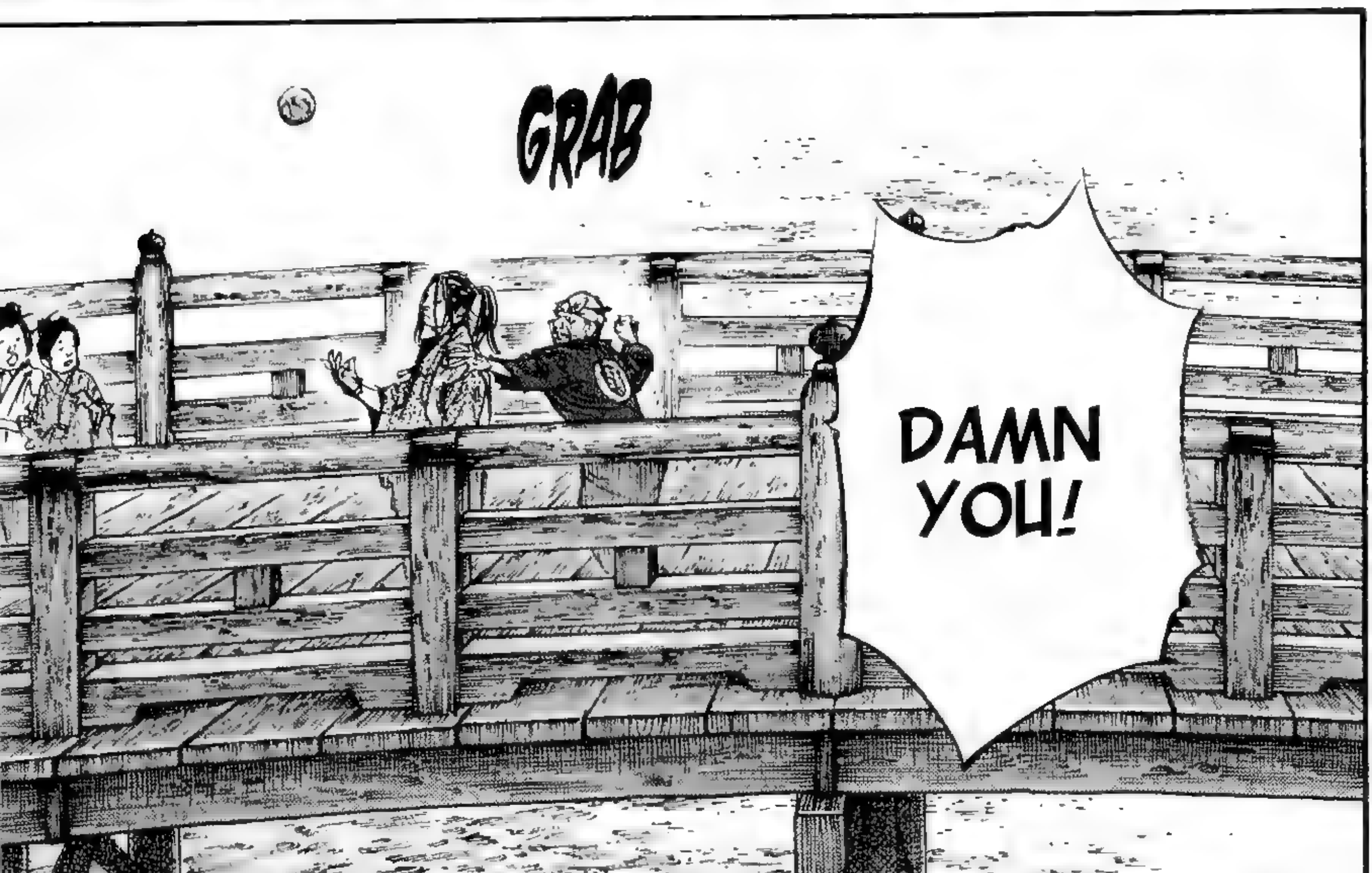
FAP

HEY! I'M TALKING TO YOU!


Tp
Tp
Tp

CHTTR
CHTTR
I BET YOU HE'S DEAF.
SURE SEEMS LIKE IT.

GRRR
TMP

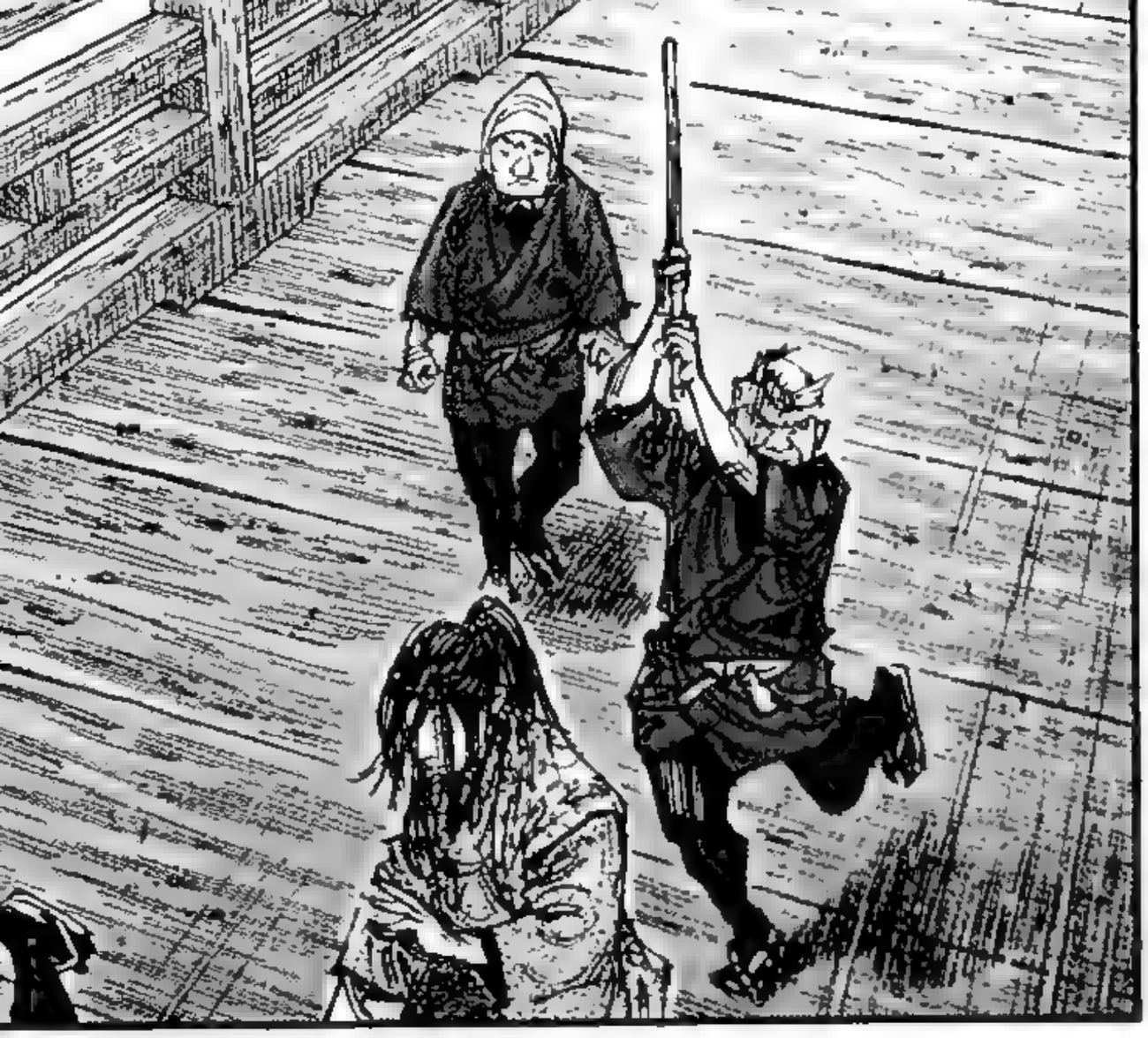

GRAB
DAMN YOU!

WOOSH
HUH?

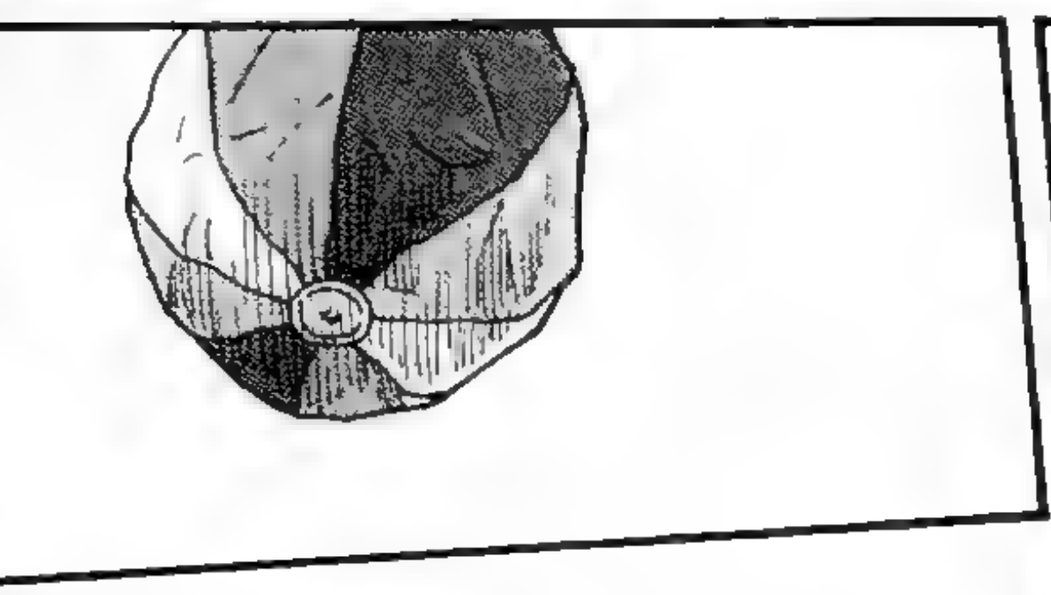
YAH!!
!!

OW!

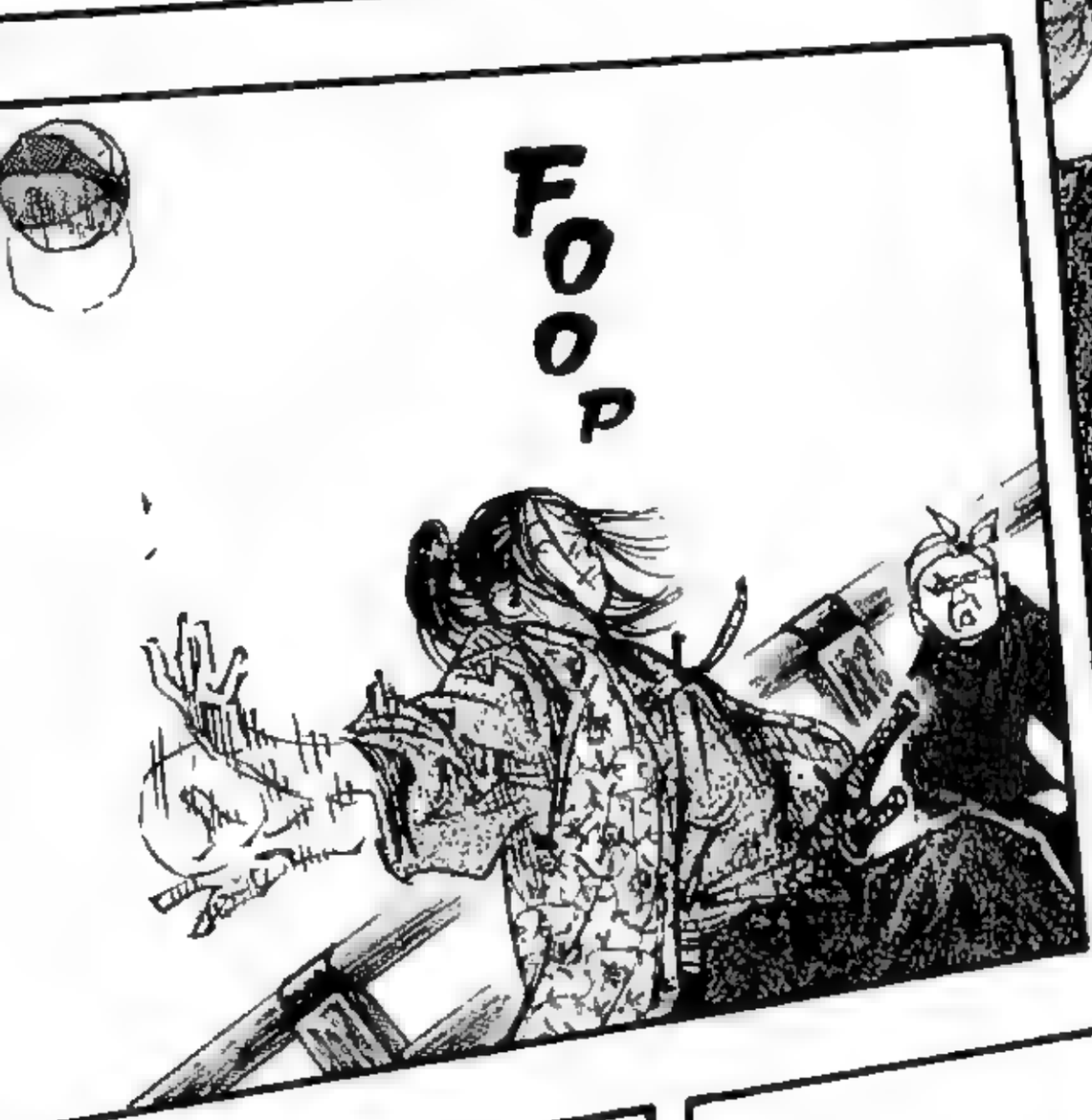
WHUD
TAKE THIS!



OH NO!



SH
W


FOOP

STOP WIGGLING AROUND...
PRETTY BOY...

...!!

YOU BASTARD!

A FIGHT?!

CHITTR CHITTR

SOME STRANGER.

WHAT?!

NGH!

FOOP

TP
TP
TP
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS! GOT SOME NERVE...
HE'S A DEAD MAN!
ACTING UP LIKE THAT IN KOKURA! THIS IS OUR TERRITORY!

TP

FUMP
WHUDD
URGH!!

UNFF

YAGHHHHH

SMIRK

WHO CARES IF HE'S A SAMURAI! HE'S DEAD!

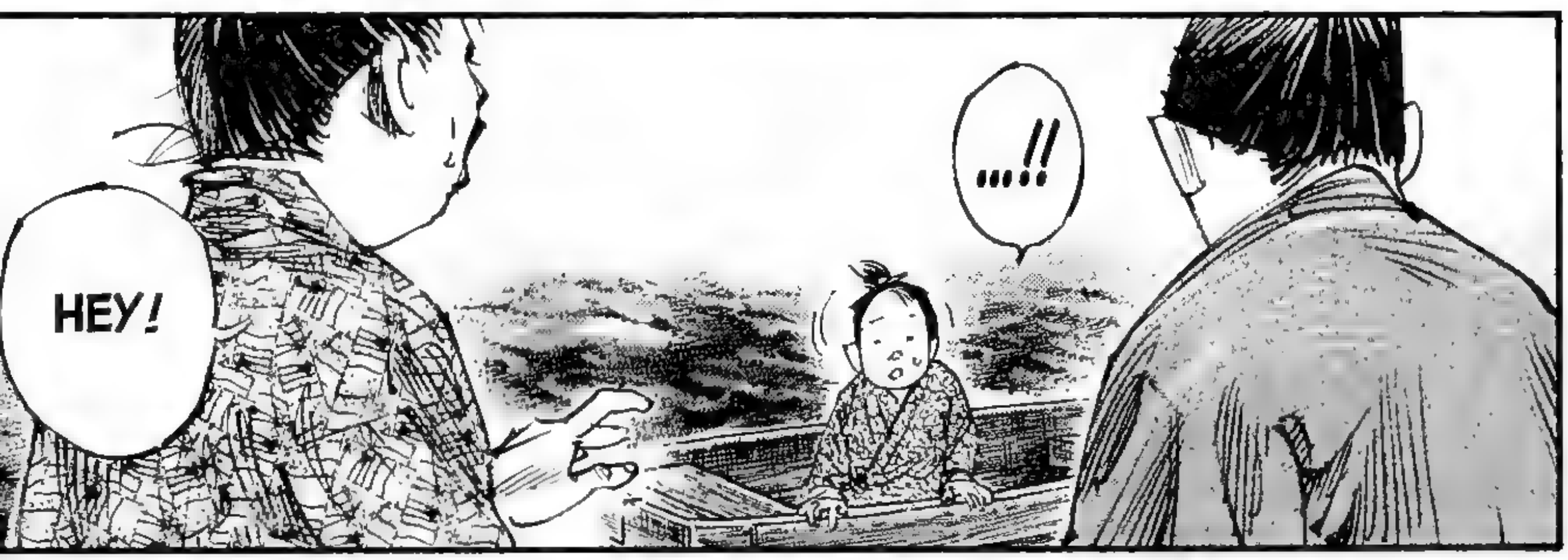
GET HIM!

HE'LL NEVER WANT TO SET FOOT IN KOKURA AGAIN!

UH-OH...

HEY ...
YOU BETTER GET OFF.

WHOA...
WHNK


HEY!
...!!

TUMP
URGH!

TUMP
AHHH...
...!!

#296 Kojirō's Town

YAHH!
GRAH!
YOU--!
!!

!!
FOOP
BASTARD!
THWAK
HUH?!
UNGH.
FOOP
NGHH!
THWAK
HUH?
WHAT THE--?

KLAK

KLAK

TUP

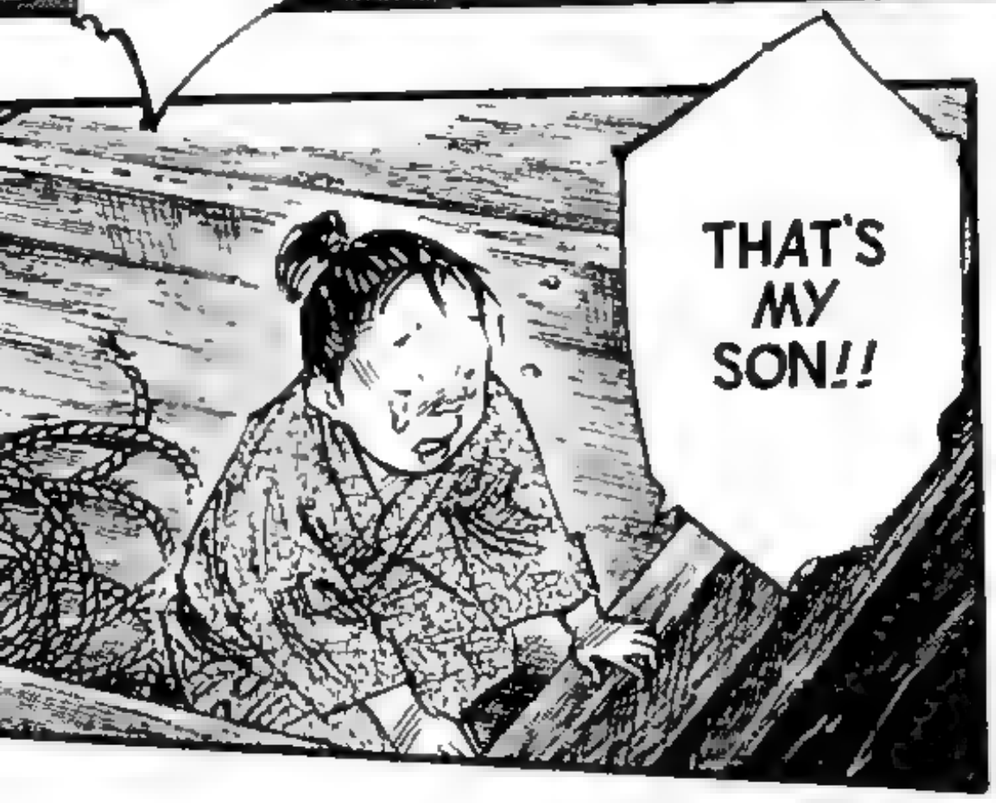
TOK

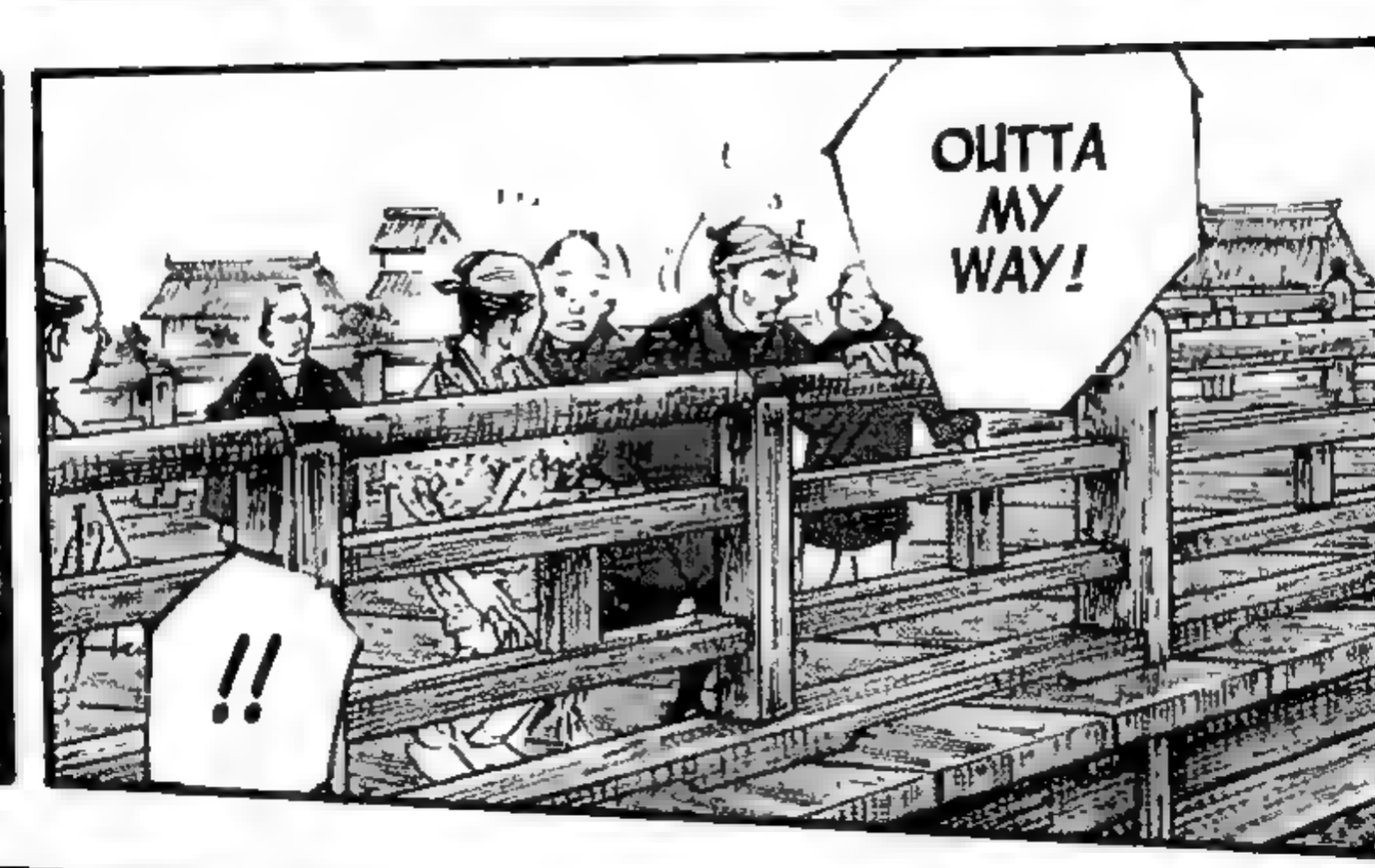
TUMP

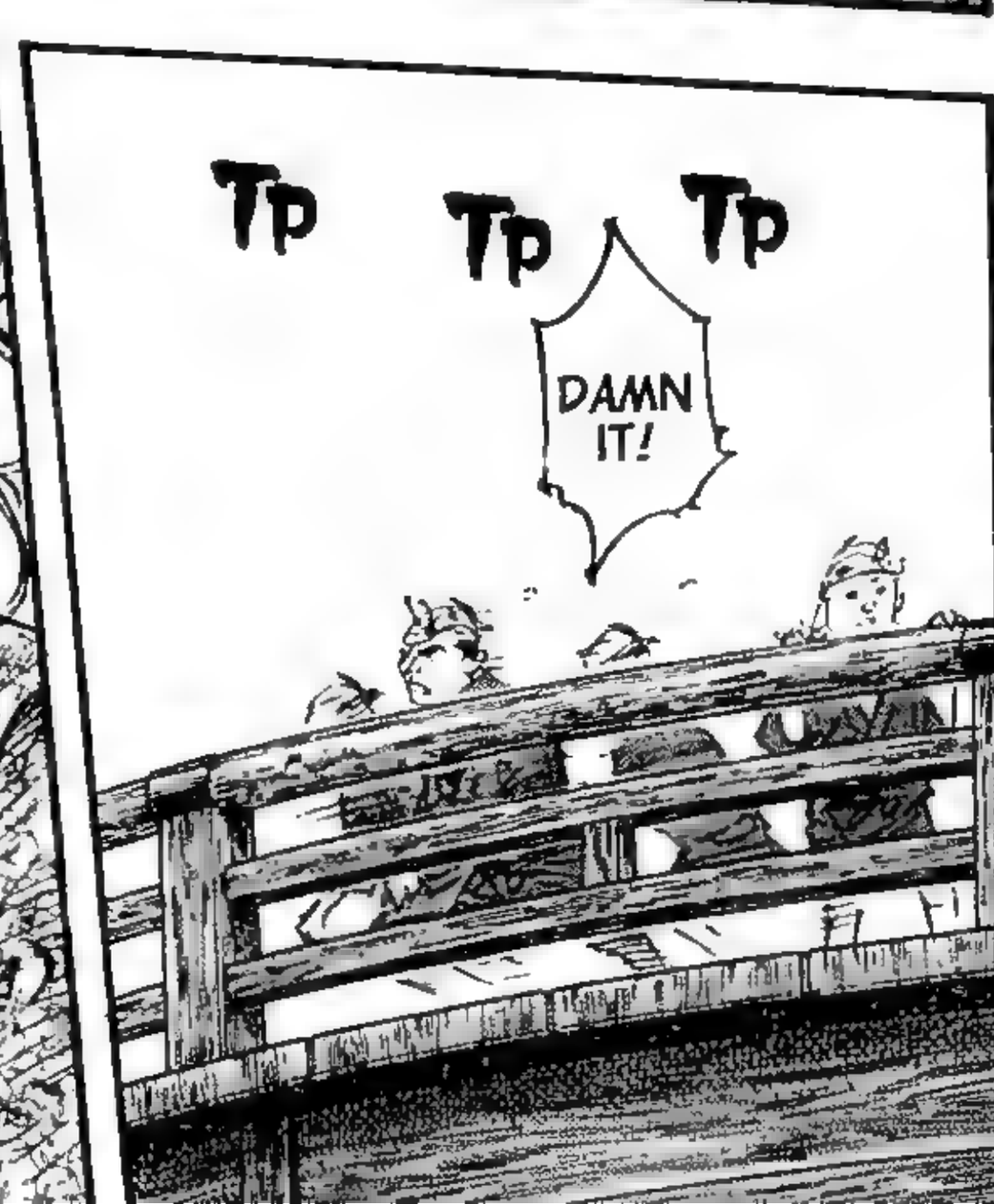
HEY!

HUH? WHAT'S HE LOOKING AT?!
PUSH HIM!

THAT KID...
HE'S DRIFTING AWAY.
AND THE TIDE'S GOING OUT!!


THAT'S MY SON!!

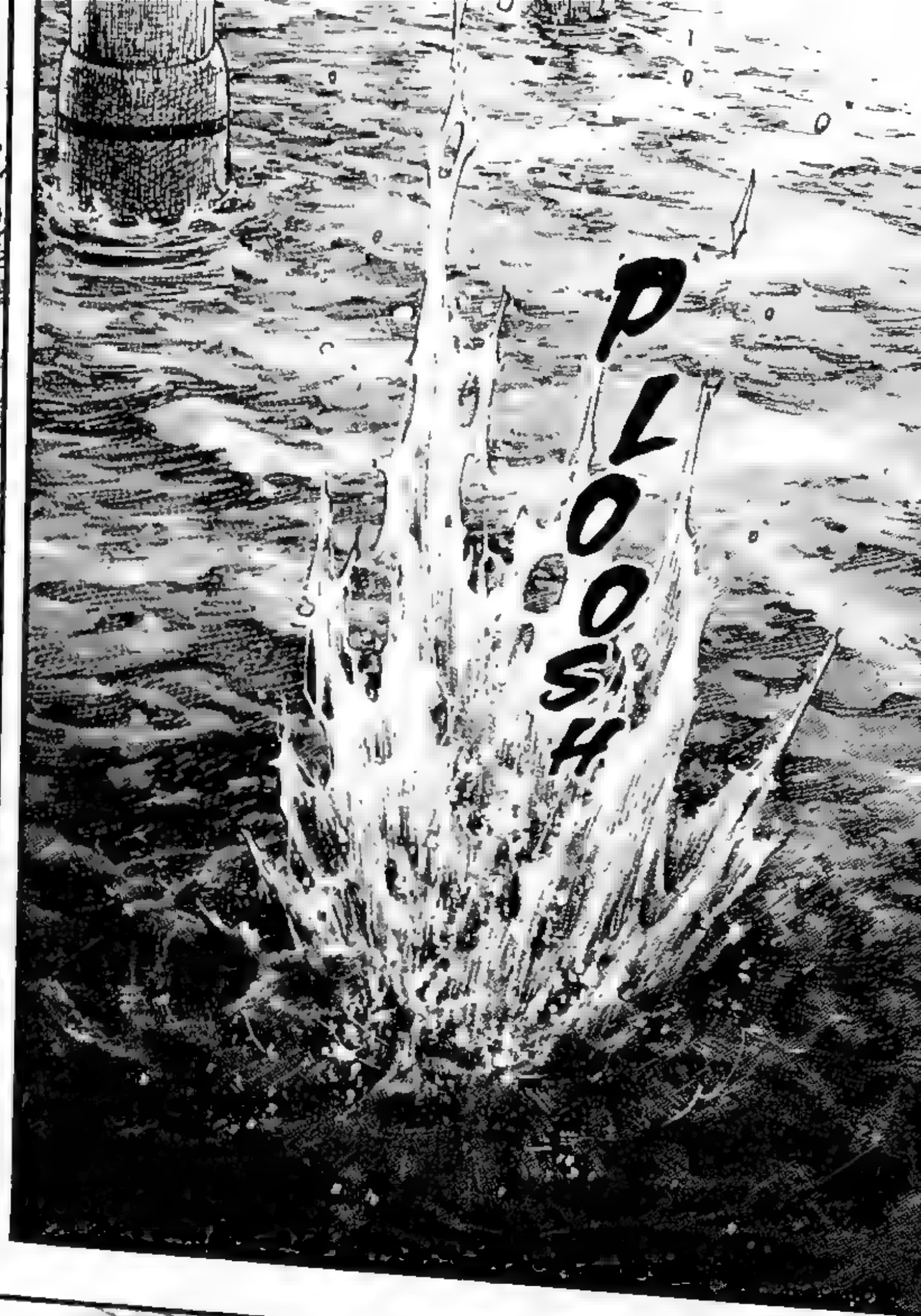

OUTTA MY WAY!
!!


Tp
Tp
Tp
DAMN IT!

!!
WHOA!
!!

WHOA!!

OH!
....!!


PLOOSH

PLISH
PLISH
PLISH

PLISH

SOB ...
SNIFF ...

WHOA!

TMP
!!
FWSH

AUHH...

SNIFF

BASTARD ...!!

OUTDONE BY AN OUTSIDER!

HE'S A REAL MAN!

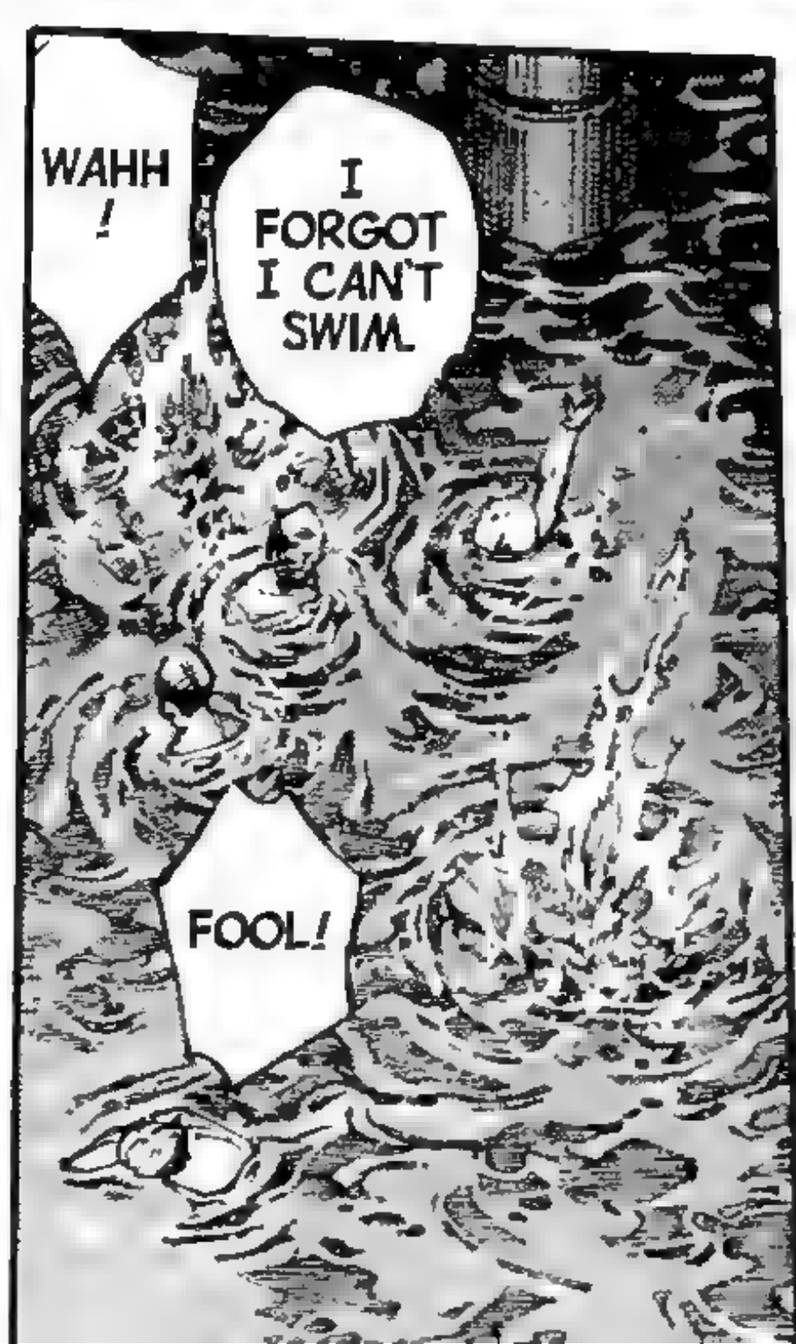
...BUT SO ARE WE!

FIP

FIP

YAHH!
!!
WAHOO!
PLUSH
PLISH

PLISSH
URGH!
PLOSH
IT'S FREEZING.
YEAH!
AHH!



AHH!
HAH HA HA!
IT'S FREEZING.
YOU'RE A LUCKY KID!
IT'S FREEZ-ING.
I'M DYING!
YEAH!
YEAH!

...
...
YEAH!
WHAT IS THIS?
...
YAAAA

AHHH

SENSEI...

MASTER GANRYŪ!
HOW ARE YOU?

HELLO, SIR.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO STOP BY, KOJIRŌ SENSEI?
GANRYŪ SENSEI!

IT'S KOJIRŌ SENSEI! HELLO, SIR!

AND SO IT ONLY TOOK A SINGLE DAY...

...FOR BUZEN KOKURA TO BECOME KOJIRŌ'S TOWN.

Vagabond

End of volume 33